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WALL STREET LOWER IN LATE TRADE
Closing prices
Page 19

Protest interrupts Waldheim meeting in Vienna

By MARTA HALPERT
Jerusalem Post Correspondent
and agencies
 VIENNA. — The first locally organized protest against Presidential Candidate Kurt Waldheim took place yesterday during a press conference where nine witnesses, mostly former comrades in arms of Waldheim, were testifying that he had never engaged in any war crimes.
 While former lieutenant-colonel Herbert Warnstorff, Waldheim's superior for one year in Yugoslavia, described the administrative work Waldheim had carried out, several young people unrolled banners that said: "Lack of memory for a president?" and "Dr. Waldheim: 1st learned of deportations of Jews from Salonika in 1986?"
 Among the protesters was Peter Kreisky, son of former Austrian chancellor Bruno Kreisky.
 The speaker ignored the demonstrators, who stood patiently for about an hour before leaving the packed room.
 Waldheim, 67, denies ever belonging to a Nazi organization and rejects as "absurd"

allegations that he was guilty of war crimes. Warnstorff and the others claimed Waldheim was never a Nazi and had nothing to do with atrocities or even knew about the deportation of Greek Jews.
 Friedrich Wiebe, who headed the army group's intelligence service, said, "We knew nothing of the deportation of Jews" from Salonika, where the Nazis are known to have deported 43,000 Jews, or one-third of the population.
 They also denied any knowledge when a reporter said he had found out that one of the concentration camps was for some time located in the immediate vicinity of Salonika railroad station, where most Wehrmacht staff members arrived.
 Some of the comments made to clear Waldheim drew murmurs of disbelief from several of the 50 or so Austrian and foreign reporters covering the news conference organized by the presidential contender's campaign.
 The final witness was 71-year-old Fritz Molden, involved in clearing Waldheim in 1945 for service in Austria's post-war Foreign Ministry.

Molden said Waldheim had been checked against any Nazi taint within a week by Austria's Interior Ministry and by two American organizations, including the forerunner to the Central Intelligence Agency.
 "There was nothing in the files that could have shown that Waldheim was a Nazi," Molden said. "It would have been unimaginable for the Foreign Ministry to have taken him on if he was in the SA, the SS or anything else."
 Allegations about Waldheim's past have been made in publications in Yugoslavia and in Austria, and by the World Jewish Congress. WJC secretary Israel Singer cancelled a press conference at which he was to present additional evidence against Waldheim yesterday. Instead, Singer announced he would merely send the documents to Austrian President Rudolf Kirchschlager for his perusal.
 The former UN secretary general meanwhile announced that he is considering legal action against those "people in New York" who initiated the allegations against him.
 The newest developments at the WJC show a complete turnaround by Dr. Israel Singer.

Waldheim said, "Hopefully this ends the infamous campaign against me. I am a man of reconciliation. I will take care of the interests of my country, and I will of course close up all the wounds which were opened here forcefully in the past weeks. I will have no hard feelings as a president against those people. I am used to overheated atmosphere in political life."
 Susanne Lederer-Kempers, a 68-year-old Dutch woman who described herself as a member of the wartime resistance, said she was a friend of Waldheim's while a fellow student at the consular academy in Vienna between 1937 and 1939.
 "I would never have had friends with even a whiff of Nazism about them," she told the news conference.
 Helmut Poliza, responsible with Waldheim in Salonika for compiling reports on the enemies of Hitler's army, said he and Waldheim had been "hermetically" sealed from other units while working six kilometres from the town.
 "Waldheim had a purely staff officer activity" (Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

'She's already back in Beirut' Woman named as suspect in explosion on TWA plane

Jerusalem Post Staff and agencies
 ROME. — A woman travelling on a Lebanese passport is suspected of placing the bomb on the TWA airliner on Wednesday that caused the death of four persons, the Italian news agency Ansa reported last night.
 Quoting Italian police sources, the agency said the woman joined the Trans World Airlines Boeing 727 in Cairo, carrying a Lebanese passport in the name of May Mansour.
 She left the scheduled flight in Athens and took another plane to Beirut two hours later, according to sources, described by Ansa as in constant contact with Italian investigators in Athens.
 Earlier, Italian Interior Minister Oscar Luigi Scalfaro announced that a suspect identified as a terrorist had travelled on the TWA plane from Cairo to Athens, occupying the same seat where the explosion later occurred. The plane continued to Italy where it recommenced its circular Rome-Athens-Cairo flight.
 Scalfaro's statement was immediately dismissed by the Egyptian government as a "ridiculous tale." Greek and American officials working on the inquiry stressed they had no firm lead pointing to those responsible.
 In Beirut, a Palestinian group that is reportedly pro-Libyan claimed responsibility, but Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi has denied any involvement.
 Cairo Airport director Mustapha Kamal Mohamadi told Reuters the plane left Cairo with 17 passengers, including a Lebanese woman identified as May Elias Mansour.
 Mohamadi said a representative of the International Civil Aviation

Organization, which sets safety standards for air navigation, was at the airport and supervised the inspection procedure of the TWA flight, as did TWA officials.
 A Rome airport official said earlier that the terrorist suspect was thought to have tried in December 1983 to plant a bomb on an Alitalia plane bound from Istanbul to Rome.
 The TWA pilot, Richard Peterson, said it was unlikely that the device had been stowed away before the plane arrived in Rome, as the passenger cabin had been absolutely checked on the jet's arrival in Rome. He thought the bomb may have been placed under a seat, possibly in the life-jacket box.
 The Italians said the explosion occurred as the craft was beginning its descent towards Athens, punching a gaping hole through which a man, two women and a baby were sucked out at a height of 10,000 feet.
 The U.S., meanwhile, has sought to determine whether the obscure Arab group claiming responsibility, the Arab Revolutionary Cells, is tied to Libya or to other known backers of terrorism. Senior U.S. officials said they did not feel Gaddafi was involved, though they did not entirely rule out the possibility. U.S. Undersecretary of State Michael Armacost rejected the notion that U.S. Navy clashes with Libyan forces last week triggered the attack, although Gaddafi had threatened a new wave in retaliation.
 In Beirut, Palestinian sources said the Arab Revolutionary Cells is linked to the so-called renegade terrorist group of Abu Nidal. A man said in a phone call to Western news agencies that the bombing was in retaliation for last week's U.S. missile shootout with Libya in the Gulf of Sidra.

Summer time 'likely from April 12'

By AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporter
 The country is likely to have summer time from April 12 to September 29, Energy Minister Moshe Shalash told The Jerusalem Post yesterday.
 Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz, who has legal authority to order changes in the clock, has so far failed to declare summer time. So Shalash said he would ask the cabinet on Sunday to "request that the competent minister act immediately. If he refuses, it would be done for him by the cabinet."
 Peretz has opposed summer time on religious grounds.
 Shalash added that the overwhelming majority of ministers want a daylight savings scheme, and will probably vote for the April 12-September 29 period.
 Meanwhile, MK Micha Harish (Alignment) and Tel Aviv attorney Yehuda Roessler yesterday filed a joint application to the High Court of Justice, asking it to direct Peretz to sign a summer time order. Justice Carmel Bach referred the case to a three-justice panel.
 The two argued that summer time would save lives, a factor that outweighed other considerations.
 Harish also petitioned the High Court over summer time in 1983. The court ordered Yosef Burg, the interior minister at the time, to set up a committee of experts to study the issue. When an overriding majority of the committee recommended that summer time be tried for two years, Burg ordered that the clocks be changed during the summers of 1984 and 1985.
 Peretz appointed his own summer time committee earlier this year. This week the panel reported to Peretz that it was deadlocked and could not make any recommendations. Peretz said this week he would announce his decision "in the near future."

Herut heads hopeful on rift; party insiders still wary

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Correspondent
and agencies
 TEL AVIV. — Vice Premier Shamir and his rival for the Herut leadership, David Levy, yesterday emerged satisfied and optimistically optimistic from their third peace parley since the party's abortive convention, but party insiders said they are not sure the rift in Herut is on the mend.
 Shamir and Levy spent over a hour in a private conversation yesterday morning and afterwards said they made considerable headway in solving the thorny problems of dividing power and forming new party institutions.
 The two said that the gap between them had been significantly narrowed and that the early scheduling of a second convention session is now likely. By the time the session begins, they said, the aim is to have had all controversial details ironed out. Both, however, admitted that minor points of contention still remain.
 Although the two agreed to meet again soon, Levy left last night for a two-day visit to Canada and further contacts will have to wait till next week.
 Welfare Minister Moshe Katsav, who was presidium chairman at last month's convention, meanwhile has started examining the conditions under which the second session could be convened.
 Despite outward indications of an impending peace pact between the two factions, party sources told The Jerusalem Post privately that things (Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)



Prime Minister Peres at a Washington reception with Secretary of State George Shultz, center, and U.S. Jewish industrialist Max Fisher, chairman of the International "Task Force" set up to help Israel towards economic independence. (Hananian Herman)

Jordan keeps up pressure on the PLO

Post Middle East Staff and agencies
 The Palestine Liberation Organization closed another of its Amman offices — the third in recent weeks — Radio Monte Carlo reported.
 The "Office of Popular Organization," as the bureau was called, maintained contact with, and files on, Palestinians living in Jordan, especially those in refugee camps. No reason was given for the closure, although Jordanian authorities have been putting pressure on the PLO lately.
 Khalil al-Wazir, better known by his nom de guerre Abu Jihad, still operates in Amman, where he is responsible for coordinating terrorist attacks inside Israel. But in recent weeks Jordan has increased its supervision of al-Wazir and his aides.
 Meanwhile, the palace formally denied a report in *Jane's Defence Weekly* that King Hussein might be forced into peace talks with Israel if he does not receive adequate financial support from other Arab states. Radio Monte Carlo had earlier quoted a palace official unofficially denying the *Jane's* report.
 "The story is completely untrue and contradicts Jordan's unchanged, proclaimed position, which rejects separate negotiations with Israel under any circumstances," a palace spokesman said.

Americans cancelling Mideast trips Ignore terror, Peres tells U.S. tourists

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent
 WASHINGTON. — Prime Minister Peres yesterday urged American tourists to visit Israel despite the recent rash of terrorist incidents in Europe and the Middle East.
 American tourism to these parts of the world has decreased significantly in recent months and travel agents here yesterday reported that the latest bombing of a TWA flight from Rome to Athens has resulted in yet more cancellations.
 Peres, interviewed on NBC television's *Today* show, insisted that a similar incident could not take place in Israel. "I believe it couldn't have happened in our airport," he said.
 "The checkup would have been much more severe and serious and the same would be true on the plane."
 The prime minister, who was due to leave New York for Israel last night, appealed to Americans not to submit to international terrorism. He urged Americans not to overreact, insisting the danger of foreign travel was exaggerated.
 He called for greater Western cooperation in the struggle against terrorism. "The best time to prevent these things is before they happen," he said. The Western states, he said, need "a much better intelligence service to get information ahead of time." He also proposed tighter security at airports and aboard planes.
 Much of Peres's visit to Washington and New York this week focused on the economic problems facing Israel and the Middle East. His proposal for a new "Marshall Plan" for the region has received extensive publicity, including front-page reports yesterday in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.
 Walter Ruby adds from New York: Peres said here yesterday he believes that the participation of Western industrial nations in his "Marshall Plan" could eventually lead to their becoming involved in political discussions to bring peace to the Middle East.
 Speaking to a gathering of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Peres contended that the "economic problems facing many Middle East states will become the overriding issue" in the region, supplanting the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iran-Iraq war.
 Noting the extreme drop in the foreign currency reserves of Egypt, Syria, and Jordan, Peres expressed concern that those states are "headed for catastrophe... and that such an economic catastrophe may send the whole area up in flames."

U.S. blames Libya, Syria and Iran for world terror

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent
 WASHINGTON. — The U.S. yesterday branded Libya, Syria and Iran as the chief sponsors of international terrorism.
 U.S. officials said that they had received intelligence reports over the past six to eight weeks — long before last week's confrontation with Libya in the Gulf of Sidra — predicting a rash of terrorist actions against American targets.
 They made these points as American experts continued to investigate Wednesday's bombing of a TWA airliner travelling from Rome to Cairo. The U.S. has not yet publicly linked that bombing to a specific terrorist group or to any country.
 But Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Michael Armacost yesterday named Libya, Syria and Iran as the chief culprits in training and sponsoring terrorists. "Libya is not alone," he said. "Other countries — Iran, Syria — are directly involved in supporting such activities."
 Armacost, in an interview broadcast on the United States Informa-

'Arafat told to leave Tunis'

Post Middle East Staff
 WASHINGTON. — Syndicated columnist Jack Anderson reported in the *Washington Post* yesterday that PLO chief Yasser Arafat has been asked to leave Tunis "in no uncertain terms" and that "he is having the devil's time trying to find another Arab country that will take him with any degree of hospitality."
 The report was not confirmed.
 After the Israel Air Force bombed PLO headquarters in Tunis last

October, the Tunisian government considered expelling the PLO but decided against the move.
 Israeli sources said last night, however, that after the air raid, the PLO at its own initiative transferred most of its headquarters staff to Amman and Baghdad. It kept some of its political offices in Tunisia, moving the rest to Amman.
 The dispersal of its offices was intended to protect the PLO against possible attacks by Israel.

Drug dealer dies in blast on day of jail release

By YORAM GAZIT
 A Tel Aviv heroin dealer was released from prison yesterday after serving a five-year sentence and was promptly killed when a grenade that had been secured to his car exploded.
 Meir Loya, 39, left the prison at 1 p.m. Shortly afterwards, he got into his car in front of his apartment in Jaffa; he had driven only a short distance when the explosion occurred. The car raced out of control for about 200 metres until it smashed into a traffic island near the Jaffa police station.
 Loya's wife, who saw the explosion from the balcony of her second-floor flat, raced downstairs and ran after the car. Upon seeing her husband's torn body, she fainted.
 Before his prison sentence, Loya survived two other attempts on his life. Police believe yesterday's murder may signal a renewal of the gang war that took place in 1978 in Jaffa.
 Loya was a well-known criminal who originally earned notoriety for daring armed robberies. Later on he turned to drug trafficking, and was a member of one of Jaffa's most feared gangs. He was rumoured to have been involved in a series of explosions in Jaffa that took the lives of some major underworld figures.
 Before his arrest he was associated with underworld figures Gad Flum, Shmaya Angel and Amos Mesika. All four were arrested on suspicion of drug dealing, but the other three were released for lack of evidence. Mesika was later murdered.

Pilots may go on strike

NEW YORK (AP). — The Airline Pilots' Association plans to call for a worldwide pilots' boycott of countries linked to terrorism, the group's security expert said in an interview published here yesterday.
 Commenting in the wake of Wednesday's bombing of the TWA jet, Captain Thomas Ashwood said the boycott will be formally proposed during a closed meeting of the International Airline Pilots' Association next Thursday in London.
 Ashwood did not specify which countries might be targeted in a boycott.
 "It is basic to point out the inability of formalized governments to counter the menace," Ashwood said in an interview in *The New York Times*. "We have to take things into our own hands. We must isolate offending nations... I know of no other approach."
 Joshua Brilliant adds:
 The Israeli pilots' association yesterday called for a day-long worldwide strike by air crews, as well as the boycott of countries that harbour terrorists.
 The call was contained in a cable sent by Captain Yitzhak Gonen, the chairman of the Israel Airline Pilots' Association, to the International Airline Pilots' Association.

Attempt to seal off courtyard foiled Police block Wakf action on Temple Mount

By BARBARA AMOUYAL
For The Jerusalem Post
 Tension between Jews and Moslems over control of the Temple Mount area flared again yesterday, as Jerusalem police blocked an attempt by the Wakf (Moslem trust) to seal off a courtyard leading to the mount.
 Both the Wakf and the Ateret Cohanim Yeshiva claim to own the courtyard, and yesterday morning Wakf officials ordered construction workers to put up a gate to seal off the area.
 The Wakf officials criticized police for intervening in what they called "a strictly internal affair," while officers on the scene said they had acted to prevent violence between Moslems and yeshiva students.
 The courtyard, which is adjacent to the yeshiva, is the site of Hakotel Hakatan, an extension of the Western Wall. The Moslem Quarter's Jewish residents use the area for daily prayers, and in recent years yeshiva students have become accustomed to storing prayer benches in the courtyard.
 Wakf authorities originally decided to cut off public access to Hakotel Hakatan in January, after they said they had discovered a hole dug under the door leading from the courtyard to the Temple Mount. The

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North Sea oil falls below \$10
 LONDON (AP). — The price of Brent Crude, the most widely traded North Sea oil, fell below \$10 a barrel yesterday for the second time this week, but rose again slightly by the end of trading.
 At midday, Brent was quoted at \$9.90 for June delivery, down 60 cents on its price in Europe last Wednesday. The July contract fell to \$9.75, down 70 cents.
 May Brent was quoted at \$10.10 but closed at \$10.20.
 On Tuesday, the price of Brent plunged below the \$10 level for the first time ever. Prices recovered Wednesday and then fell back yesterday.

Golan Druse urge UN to investigate conditions
Post Middle East Staff
 A group of Golan Druse have sent a letter to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar charging Israel with violating their civil rights and urging him to dispatch a fact-finding committee.
 The letter, which lists 21 examples of Israeli "harassment and oppression," alleges that Israel is "putting pressure on us to eliminate our Syrian Arab nationality and force us to accept Israeli identity through the annexation of the Golan."

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The weather at major Swissair destinations

	3.4.86	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	2	16	28	Cloudy
BRUSSELS	2	16	28	Cloudy
BUEENOS AIRES	15	29	37	Cloudy
CHICAGO	9	32	37	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	9	32	37	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	5	14	24	Cloudy
GENEVA	5	14	24	Cloudy
HELSINKI	5	14	24	Cloudy
HONG KONG	19	24	27	Cloudy
JOHANNESBURG	12	24	27	Cloudy
LEON	8	16	24	Cloudy
LONDON	3	17	29	Cloudy
MADRID	6	15	29	Cloudy
MONTREAL	1	16	24	Cloudy
NEW YORK	11	23	27	Cloudy
OSLO	2	16	24	Cloudy
PARIS	5	14	24	Cloudy
RIO DE JANEIRO	19	24	27	Cloudy
SAO PAULO	12	24	27	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	5	14	24	Cloudy
TOKYO	7	16	24	Cloudy
TORONTO	9	16	24	Cloudy
VIENNA	5	14	24	Cloudy
ZURICH	2	16	24	Cloudy

*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy.
Outlook for Saturday: Warmer.

	Humidity	Min-Max	Today's Max
Jerusalem	80	9-15	17
Golan	70	8-18	19
Nakariya	70	12-21	23
Safed	74	8-16	17
Haifa Port	—	—	23
Tiberias	69	13-24	25
Nazareth	67	12-19	19
Afula	68	11-22	24
Shomron	70	10-18	19
Tel Aviv	73	14-21	23
B-G Airport	74	13-20	22
Jericho	55	14-24	26
Gaza	80	7-20	23
Beersheba	65	12-20	22
Eilat	33	14-26	23

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The first meeting of the presidium of Le Comité International d'Auschwitz to take place in Israel concluded yesterday. Participating were the president of the international committee Prof. Maurice Goldstein of Belgium; Irina Kharina from the USSR; general secretary of the committee, and former minister of culture of Poland Lucjan Motyka; representative from Holland Annie Fels-Kupferschmidt; representative from France Andre Montagne; representative from East Germany Kurt Goldstein who is also secretary of the Federation Internationale des Résistants; and Stefan Grayek, president of the World Federation of Jewish Fighters, Partisans and Camp Inmates.

Philippines Ambassador and Mrs. Ernesto Giday yesterday held a farewell reception at their Herzliya residence to mark the end of the ambassador's tour of duty in Israel.

ARRIVALS

Norma Nelson, from California yesterday to inaugurate a tourist enterprise. "World Journeying," based on the concept that "All roads lead to Jerusalem."

Rubinstein competition reaches halfway point

By LEA LEVAVI
TEL AVIV. — "Please continue not to cough" the mistress of ceremonies at the Arthur Rubinstein Piano Competition told the audience yesterday. On previous days, she had asked them to try not to cough, and the change in her phrasing was regarded as an indication of their growing attentiveness.

The competition has reached the halfway point, with 17 of the 34 competitors having already played. There seemed to be a consensus among the audience that Arnan Wiesel, who performed yesterday as the fast of the five Israeli participants, measured up well against the foreign competition.

Bnei Brak garages may open on Sabbath

BNEI BRAK. — Garage owners here told reporters yesterday they will start doing business on the Sabbath if municipal rates are not lowered by the end of the month.

The garage owners said that they would have to work extra days to pay their municipal rates, which have recently increased by 250 per cent.

They claimed their rates are high to make up for the many local yeshiva students who are exempt from city taxes. They also said they would give a 20 per cent discount on Saturdays.

Observant garage owners said they would open their premises as well, but employ only non-Jews.

DRUSE. — An organization to help demobilized Druse soldiers, "One Fate," has been established in Daliat al-Carmel. For further information, telephone (04)235847.

Heartiest Mazal Tov to Soifer, Ben-Yitzhak and Isaacs Families on the occasion of the Bar-Mitzva of

Hillel Lily and Pamela Jones Olga Weiss

HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

Rabin asks Egypt to check claim it sank the Dakar

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Reporter
Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday asked Egypt's Chargé d'Affaires Mohammed Bassiouny for "clarification" of a report that Egypt sank the submarine Dakar 18 years ago.

The Dakar was lost on her maiden voyage here from Britain, and is believed to have gone down off the Egyptian coast.

Rabin contacted Bassiouny after receiving a report that Egypt had attacked the Dakar. Cairo has always denied any knowledge of what happened.

The report, which appeared recently in the United Arab Emirates' *Al-Halif* newspaper, quoted Mahmud Fawzi, Egypt's minister of war

and chief of staff in the late 1960s, as saying that Egypt sank the vessel in January 1968.

Fawzi is quoted as having said: "We frequently did not report on enemy losses, unless the enemy acknowledged them... One of the secrets is related to the loss of the Dakar... We sank the submarine in January 1968, shortly after sinking the destroyer *Eilat*."

Israeli military sources said yesterday that they didn't think the story was true. One officer said the army had its own ideas about what happened to the Dakar. Its sinking was certainly not the result of an enemy attack, he said, without elaborating.

A former Navy commander, Aluf (Res.) Shlomo Erel, also strongly rejected Fawzi's state-

ments. The navy had virtually ruled out an enemy attack as the cause of the sinking, he said.

"All we have is Fawzi's word — with nothing to support it," another officer told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Israeli sources felt Fawzi might have been trying to embarrass President Hosni Mubarak. Fawzi has steadfastly opposed contacts with Israel, and his statements could embarrass Cairo because they suggest that the Egyptians lied about the submarine.

Meanwhile, Egypt has agreed to allow a U.S. team, using the same sophisticated equipment that was used to find debris from the Challenger shuttle, to enter its territorial waters to search for the Dakar.

Gov't report blames rumour, mistreatment for Cairo riots

CAIRO (AP). — Police riots that brought the army into Cairo's streets in February were a spontaneous reaction to rumour, abominable living conditions and mistreatment of conscripts by officers, the government's chief investigator said yesterday.

Prosecutor General Mohammed Abdel Aziz al-Gundi said his investigation "showed definitely that no foreign hand" or domestic opposition groups were involved in the February 25-26 central security force mutiny.

"No external or domestic quarter had anything to do with the events," Gundi said in releasing his report.

"The mutiny was the result of a spontaneous outburst caused by a rumour that the tour of duty was being extended by one year."

The riots began in Giza, when hundreds of conscripts stormed out of camps and began burning, looting and shooting in a tourist district. It rapidly spread to other security force camps, including some in provincial cities, which Gundi blamed on Cairo Radio reports about the

MIDDLE EAST

rumour that had sparked the initial outburst.

Gundi said his investigation found the riots resulted in the deaths of one military officer, 53 conscripts and 16 civilians. The government earlier announced that 100 people had died, but Gundi gave no reason for the discrepancy.

Gundi's figure of wounded — 158

police and military and 48 civilians — also was significantly lower than the previously announced figure of more than 700.

The prosecutor said he had investigated 3,096 people and had recommended that charges be filed against 1,205 security men and 31 civilians. He said no more than 60 civilians — eight of them minors — participated in the rampage, mostly "professional" criminals.

Charges include capital offences like sedition and murder and a dozen lesser counts.

3 Lebanese Red Cross staff snatched at gunpoint in Beirut

Post Mideast Staff
The Lebanese Red Cross yesterday announced that three of its first-aid workers had been snatched at gunpoint in West Beirut this week and appealed to militiamen to free them.

Palestinians firing machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades

blunted a thrust by Shi'ite Amal militiamen to push into the Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps yesterday.

A 10-year-old boy was killed when a mortar bomb exploded in a Shi'ite suburb, doctors said. A Palestinian was killed early yesterday by a 106mm. shell fired by Amal into the

Bourj al-Barajneh camp south of Sabra and Shatilla.

A spokesman for the Palestine National Salvation Front, which groups six pro-Syrian factions opposed to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, accused Amal of sabotaging truce efforts.

The PNSF said that Arafat's sup-

porters and opponents were united in the latest confrontation with the Shi'ites.

The 45 French cease-fire observers, who had monitored clashes among rival militias along Beirut's Green Line for two years, left Lebanon for home yesterday.

Sudan in about-face on integration with Egypt

CAIRO (APF). — The Sudanese Embassy here has retreated from an announcement on Monday by Sudan's state news agency, Suna, that Khartoum had unilaterally scrapped plans for integration with Egypt. It said Monday's announcement was only a recommendation.

A communique issued by the embassy Wednesday quoted Sudan's Foreign Minister, Ibrahim Taha Ayub, as saying the Sudanese cabinet lacked the power to unilaterally renounce plans to unite the economic and political institutions of the two countries.

It said any decision concerning the 1982 integration charter between the two states must be taken after consultation with Egypt.

Under the treaty, which was to result in full economic and political integration by 1992, the two states set up a joint parliament and created an integration fund.

The new regime in Khartoum, however, has moved to free itself from what it saw as over-dependence on Egypt.

Cairo responded to Suna's report by saying it had not been officially informed of the Sudanese decision.

Petah Tikva police brace for cinema protests

By YORAM GAZIT
TEL AVIV. — The Petah Tikva police, beefed up with reinforcements from other towns, are bracing for demonstrations tonight as the Heichal Cinema begins its Friday night screenings.

Several years ago, hundreds and sometimes thousands of Orthodox demonstrators would take to the streets every Friday night to protest against movie shows at other theatres.

The Orthodox groups have obtained a permit from the police for a demonstration of 7,500 people tonight. The Citizens Rights Movement and Mapam have also obtained a permit to hold a counter-demonstration, but for only several dozen people.

Hundreds of Orthodox residents of the town gathered in synagogues last night for protest meetings in advance of tonight's demonstration.

Jordan switches to summer time

AMMAN (Reuters). — Jordan moved its clocks forward one hour at midnight last night as the country went on to daylight saving time until October 3.

This is the second year running that Jordan has taken the step. An official said he could not yet estimate the saving on fuel bills, but it would be significant, given the country's \$600m. fuel bill last year.

Lawyer says Tzur victim of politics

TEL AVIV (Itim). — Avi Tzur, the Agriculture Ministry official charged with taking bribes from building contractors working in the territories, was a victim of a change in government, his lawyer said yesterday.

Speaking at the opening day of the Tel Aviv lawyer Ze'ev Vilner said his client would decide within seven days whether to enter a guilty plea.

Tzur is charged with bribery, suborning witnesses and breach of trust, mainly in connection with a letter falsely stating that permission had been given for constructing two Jewish settlements on the West Bank. He was working as an assistant to then deputy agriculture minister Michael Dekel.

WALDHEIM

(Continued from Page One)
and in no way a command function," the 66-year-old West German said.

Austrian filmmaker Ruth Becker-mann, one of the demonstrators from an ad-hoc "committee for a New Austria," told reporters the committee's aim was not to brand Waldheim as a war criminal.

"It's a question of the repudiation of the past by both big parties who are not ashamed about anti-Semitism," she said.

Several of the seven or so demonstrators were led away towards the end of the news conference. But a police spokesman later said no one was arrested.

In Vienna, former chancellor Bruno Kreisky criticized Waldheim for not revealing some of his wartime activity, and said in a television interview aired yesterday that a potential Austrian president should be above suspicion.

Kreisky, who as chancellor recommended Waldheim for his UN post, said he would do it again today "only on condition that he lists in his curriculum vitae everything that has been established as true in the mean-

while."

He toned down his criticism of Waldheim's attackers in the interview and said, "A man who is trying for the highest honour of the state should be free of such suspicions... We should have a man [for president] who is not treated in this way," he said.

Pressed by reporters on the subject of Waldheim, Peres reiterated that he believes "the questions raised about Waldheim are legitimate, and we expect him to give legitimate answers." He said it was a mystery to him why the UN would not release its files on Waldheim and added that Israel would wait to see if any other countries request the Waldheim files from the UN. Pressed as to whether Israel would request the files, Peres said he would prefer it if other countries made the request, "but if need be, we will do so."

A UN spokesman said that he did not know if the UN files contained material on Waldheim's wartime service, but added that no government has so far inquired about the material. Only governments are allowed to see these files.

Soviets won't move Edelstein for medical help

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Correspondent
TEL AVIV. — The Soviet authorities have rejected an official Israeli demand that aliyah activist Yuli Edelstein be moved from his place of exile to receive medical treatment.

The Israeli request, an extraordinary move in itself, had been relayed to the Soviets through the Dutch Embassy in Moscow, which has been representing Israeli interests in the USSR since the Soviets severed diplomatic relations in 1967.

The Soviet authorities replied that the matter is an internal affair.

Edelstein was reportedly injured in what was officially termed "a

work accident" in the hamlet near the Mongolian border to which he has been exiled for three years on trumped-up drug charges.

It was reported that he had shattered his hip bone and damaged his urinary tract. He will be lucky if he survives, doctors here believe, and will probably never regain his former health.

Sources here are not convinced that Edelstein was the victim of an accident, as he had been singled out for especially rough treatment by the Soviets. He had been beaten and injured on several occasions during his exile, the sources said.

With great sorrow,
we announce the passing of
DAVID (Dave) LEVY
Blanche, Gideon and Dina
and the members of Kfar Hanassi
For details of the funeral,
please phone 069-32901.

On the first anniversary of the passing of our beloved
Prof. BENJAMIN AKZIN
we shall visit his grave, and honour his memory
on Sunday, April 6, 1986 (26 Adar B, 5746).
We shall meet at the entrance to the
Har Hamenuhot cemetery, Jerusalem, at 2:45 p.m.
The Family

We announce in sorrow the death of our beloved
LILIANA WARM BANKIER
born 1912 in Warsaw.
Died on February 20, 1986.
Families in Stockholm and Israel



Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev (right) and Inspector-General David Kraus (centre) stand with the newly formed police chorus at yesterday's Israel Police Officers' Convention in Jerusalem. (Rahamim Israeli)

Young West Bank Arabs seek to convert to Judaism

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Fifteen West Bank Arabs have asked to convert to Judaism, but only two have been converted so far, Amram Yifrah, the head of Kiryat Arba's religious council said yesterday.

He confirmed a report due to appear today in the Orthodox weekly *Erev Shabbat* saying that the candidates are in their late teens or early twenties and are educated.

The would-be converts have told the rabbinical authorities they want to convert because they believe Judaism is "the right way." Some merely say they "feel" they want to be Jews.

The rabbis will do nothing until the West bank authorities check the candidates' backgrounds.

Yifrah declined to name the two who had converted. Apparently, the first is a grandson of Hebron's late mayor Sheikh Mohammed Ali al-Ja'abari. He converted some three years ago. The second, also from Hebron, is studying at Mahon Meir in Jerusalem. Both are very Orthodox, Yifrah said.

Yifrah also declined to comment on a report in *Erev Shabbat* that some of the applicants are members of highly respected clans, believed to have been forcibly converted from Judaism to Islam over a century ago.

With great sorrow and pain we announce the tragic loss of my beloved husband, our dear father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother
Rabbi Dr. ISRAEL (Azriel) GERSTEIN
of Jerusalem
former rabbi of Congregation Ahavas Israel, Passaic, New Jersey.
The funeral will take place today, Friday, April 4, 1986, at 12 noon at the funeral chapel, Eretz Hachaim Cemetery, Shimon junction, near Beit Shemesh. Bus transportation will leave from The French Hill Synagogue, corner Hagana — Derech Shechem at 10.45 a.m.
Wife: Rabbanit Chana Gerstein, Jerusalem
Children: Rabbi Joseph and Hadassah Feder, Petah Tikva
Dr. Magda and Lynn Gerstein, Kfar Haroeh
Grandchildren: Rebecca Glazer, Menachem and Jonathan Feder, Miriam and Eliseveta Gerstein
Great-grandchildren: Dov Eliezer and Michael Sarah
Brothers: Hyman, Jerusalem, Sam and Isaac, U.S.A.
Shiva will be observed at the home of the deceased, 2 Rehov Bar Kochba, French Hill, Jerusalem.

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved
LEO SAVIR
The funeral will leave today, Friday, 24 Adar B, 5746 — April 4, 1986 at 1 p.m. from the Sanhedria Funeral Parlour, Jerusalem, for the Har Hamenuhot cemetery.
The Bereaved: Henni Savir
Uri and Aliza Savir
Yael and Yosef Rivlin
Sasha and Koty Silberman
Konni Savir
Grandchildren and other members of the family
Shiva at 10 Reh. Metudella, Jerusalem.

With deep sorrow we announce the death of our
DANNY WEIN
while on active duty.
Beit Neveh Ilan and The Family
For details regarding the funeral, call 02-341224 or 02-341241

Our sincere condolences to Eli and children, Sidney, Sylvia and all members of the Black and Kedar families, on your tragic loss with the death of
CAROLYN
British Olim Society, Karmiel

All of us at MICRO-TOOLS, Tefen extend our sincere sympathy to Sidney and Sylvia Black and family on the tragic death of their daughter
CAROLYN

The Rabbinical Council of America — Israel Region expresses its profound sorrow at the passing of its esteemed Honorary President
Rabbi AZRIEL GERSTEIN
and conveys its condolences to the Rabbi and his family.
Rabbi Ephraim Koleski, President
The funeral will take place today, Friday, April 4 at 12 noon, at Eretz Hachaim cemetery, Shimon junction (near Beit Shemesh).

הקדא מן אלאל

Panel of Kremlinologists concludes: Little new in Gorbachev talk of domestic change

By PINHAS LANDAU
Post Finance Reporter

Plenty of tough talk, but no new ideas. That was the consensus of an international panel of Kremlinologists meeting at the Hebrew University concerning the impact the recent 27th Communist Party Congress had on Soviet economic policy.

Yesterday's session at the Mount Scopus campus was one of a series of panels reviewing different aspects of the congress.

Prof. Joseph Berliner of Harvard and Brandeis universities, a long-time analyst of Soviet management and industrial trends, said the policy problems facing Soviet leaders haven't changed since the late 1930s — only the tactics used to attack them have varied. In the Stalin era, the emphasis was on increasing control over the economy to increase efficiency and catch up with the West. But since the Khrushchev era in the late 1950s and early '60s, decentralization has been seen as the way to accomplish these goals, Berliner said.

Berliner noted that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's demand that the planning administration in Moscow "cease its petty tutelage of enterprises" is an idea whose very wording harks back to the Brezhnev-Kosygin reforms of the mid-'60s. Only two brief references in Gorbachev's long speech contained new seeds of new ideas, Berliner contended. These were that enterprises be given the right to sell any excess production above their quotas, and that the state should

support the creation and expansion of agricultural and industrial cooperatives. If Gorbachev can implement these proposals, they could lead to an auxiliary, legal economy side-by-side with the centralized system, Berliner said.

Prof. Gur Ofer of the Hebrew University, as well as other speakers, expressed serious doubt whether even these tentative moves towards easing central control would amount to much, given the existing socio-political system.

The idea that Soviet Union has vast untapped reserves of human and other resources awaiting release through administrative reform was wrong, Ofer said. The difficulties involved in reforming the economy are deeply rooted in the system itself. Partial reform is unlikely to lead to any lasting progress, he said, pointing out that in the past improvements in one sphere were more than cancelled out by increased problems in other sectors of the economy. Total reform would be easier than partial reforms, he concluded.

Ofer said Gorbachev's call for "revolutionary reform," which so far has not been followed up by concrete measures, would most likely result in as little real change as his predecessors brought about.

A surprising feature of the discussion on economic policy was the absence of any statistics to illustrate or back up the arguments. Furthermore, the oil crisis — perhaps the most important development in the Soviet economy in recent years — was not mentioned.

Smith poll shows decline in support for Kahane's Kach 74 per cent think Peres is doing a good job

By HANOCH and RAFI SMITH
Special to the Jerusalem Post

Public approval of the government's performance increased sharply in the March poll conducted by the Smith Research Centre for *The Jerusalem Post*, compared to a similar poll last August. Fifty-one per cent of the public thought the government was generally successful, compared to 35 per cent in the earlier poll. This was the highest rating for a government in over a decade of Smith polls.

Similarly, on the personal level, Shimon Peres received the highest rating ever for a prime minister (74 per cent thought he performed well in his job) while an unprecedented 63 per cent thought Yitzhak Moda'i was a good finance minister. Also without precedent, approval of the government's economic performance doubled from 31 per cent in August to 61 per cent in the latest poll.

The survey was conducted among 1,245 Jewish voters representing all segments of the population, including development towns and kibbutzim. In response to the question, "Is the government succeeding or not succeeding in the following activities?" these are the percentages answering "succeeding or succeeding on the whole":

	Feb. 1985	Aug. 1985	March 1986
Economy	28	31	61
Social welfare	34	31	29
Defence	47	56	68
Foreign policy	56	48	61
General opinion of the government	41	35	51

In the defence and foreign policy areas, the government's rating also rose sharply. Of particular interest is the performance in the social area, in which the government's rating continued to decline. The total asymmetry between the economic and social areas is also unprecedented. This area, it should be recalled, is particularly correlated to voting preferences and should be followed closely. Except in this area, it must be concluded the government performed extremely well in the March poll.

On the personal level, Shimon Peres gained 12 per cent over his August

Diplomat Leo Savir, 74

Jerusalem Post Staff
Veteran diplomat Leo Savir died last night in Jerusalem. He was 74. Savir, who was born in Germany, joined the foreign service at its inception. Among the posts he filled were Foreign Ministry spokesman, minister at the embassy in Bonn, ambassador to Finland and chief of protocol.

He leaves a wife, Henny, a daughter, Yael, and a son, Uri, who is Prime Minister Peres's media adviser.

Hanan Baron, deputy director-general of the Foreign Ministry, writes:

Leo Savir's death robs us of a colleague and friend who has been the very fabric of Israel's foreign service.

He joined Israel's foreign service at the very beginning, and like his colleagues of those days was a "witness to creation." It was pioneering indeed; neither Leo nor anybody else knew in those days how a foreign service worked or non-foreign relations were conducted. They depended on their intellectual resources, their culture and erudition, but more than anything else on their wit and ability to improvise.

Israel — its security and its reputation — was always Leo Savir's major concern. He brought to the manifold tasks that were entrusted to him a deep sense of devotion as well as a search for knowledge.

But more than for his accomplishments, Leo Savir will be remembered as one of those all too rare human beings who were civil servants in the almost literal sense of the term. He was always civil without losing his humour, and a servant to his cause, and therefore to his people.

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Australian citizens visiting or residing in Israel and the areas for which the Embassy has consular responsibility, namely the Golan Heights, West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza, are invited to register or to renew previous registration with the Consular Section of the Australian Embassy, 185 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv, between Monday and Thursday, from 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.



"We were neighbours," says Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar, who was born in Yemen, to a new immigrant from Ethiopia, during a tour of a new Koor plant yesterday in Upper Nazareth.

Biton to give up immunity to appeal theft conviction

MK Charlie Biton yesterday told the Supreme Court he would ask the Knesset to lift his immunity from prosecution, thus paving the way for him to appeal a 1977 conviction for theft.

Biton, a member of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for breaking into the Strauss

plant in Jerusalem and stealing dairy products for distribution to the city's poor. He committed the crime just before his election to the Knesset.

Under an agreement reached with prosecutors, Biton said, once his immunity has been lifted the state will recommend that his sentence be reduced to 60 hours or less of community service. (Itim)

rating. The only other minister showing a sharp rise was Yitzhak Moda'i, whose rating rose by 16 per cent to a level previously unknown by a finance minister.

In the Likud camp, only Yitzhak Shamir showed strength, while colleagues David Levy and Ariel Sharon fell to all-time lows in their ratings.

	Feb. 1985	Aug. 1985	March 1986
Shimon Peres, Prime Minister	65	62	74
Yitzhak Rabin, Defence	63	65	71
Yitzhak Moda'i, Finance	49	47	63
Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign	49	48	51
David Levy, Housing	49	48	37
Ariel Sharon, Industry and Trade	34	36	31

Among other ministers rated, Amnon Rubinstein (Communications) received a favourable rating from 47 per cent of the population and Yitzhak Peretz (Religious Affairs) 35 per cent. Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar received a favourable rating from 57 per cent of those interviewed.

The very high ratings received by Labour ministers and the decline in ratings of certain Likud ministers had little effect on overall party preferences. While Labour led the Likud by 42 to 23 per cent, there was little change in party support patterns.

	Feb. 1985	Aug. 1985	March 1986
Knesset election 1984	39	39	42
Labour (Incl. Yahad)	39	39	42
Mapam	2.5	1	1+
Shinui	2.5	2.5	2.5
Citizens Rights	2.5	5	4
Likud	36	22	23
Tehiya	4	7	8
Religious parties	10.5	8	9
Kach	1	1	2
Other	3	9	2
Undecided, no preference	—	4	4

Since the Knesset elections, the trend has been towards a slight rise in support for the Labour camp, now a bare majority of 51 per cent among Jewish voters. The most significant trend has been the Likud's loss of support. The appearance of the new Liberal Center list is included in "others." It received close to 1 per cent of that total.

The low correlation between personality ratings and party preference should be noted. This shows the power of party or ideological affiliation in Israel life.

The decline in Kach fortunes is further reflected by the decline in the personal rating of Rabbi Meir Kahane. While 20 per cent of the August sample approved of him, the percentage dropped to 10 per cent in the March poll. In contrast, those approving of Yossi Sarid rose fractionally from 28 to 30 per cent.

Despite the increase in satisfaction at the government's performance, a bare majority of the population, 54 per cent, feels reasonably confident in the government. Another 41 per cent — a very large minority — still feel a lack of confidence in the government.

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New WZO group aims to set aliya example

By MOSHE KOHN

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The World Zionist Organization now has an autonomous federation of *magshimim*, those who realize the Zionist idea by personally coming to live in Israel. This was decided yesterday at the closing session of a four-day conference of aliya activists and movement representatives within the WZO, held at Kfar Hamaccabiah.

The federation, which will be formally named this June at the meeting of the Zionist General Council, will have its own budget and send its own representatives to all organs of the WZO.

The new federation comprises all the historical Zionist youth movements, plus newer aliya organizations such as Telem (Hebrew acronym for Movement for Zionist Fulfillment) and Tehila (Voluntary Union for Religious Aliya).

The separate organization of *magshimim* within the WZO is intended as a dynamic alternative to the veteran Zionist bodies abroad, which were attacked at the conference for not doing enough to promote aliya from the West.

But membership is also open to individuals who undertake to come to live in Israel within a stated time. The exact deadline by which those intending to make aliya must fulfil their pledge will be set by the federation's steering committee by the time of the next Zionist Congress.

Also eligible for membership are olim (immigrants) during their first three years here, and veteran Israelis who are active in encouraging aliya and absorbing newcomers.

The conference of *magshimim* was held under the WZO auspices, and came after many years of increasingly vocal demand by the Zionist youth movements for "proper representation" in the ruling bodies of the WZO.

About 200 people participated, the overwhelming majority of them men and women in their late teens and early twenties. About two-thirds came especially from abroad, and the others either live here or are participating in various programmes here.

About 25 per cent of the participants — exactly 51 men and women, according to one count — were Orthodox, including representatives of such religiously neutral movements as WUJS, Telem and Tegar, the North American Revisionist students' movement.

Yesterday's decision was preceded by nearly two days of workshop discussions centering on whether the *magshimim* should band together as an autonomous federation, whether they should form a new WZO department, or whether they should be part of an existing department.

MKs backtrack in move to restrict activities of lawyer colleagues

KNESSET SPOTLIGHT
Aryeh Rubinstein

The House Committee took a giant step backwards this week when it voted, 9-8, against Mordechai Virshubski's (Shinui) proposal to bar Knesset members from representing clients before governmental bodies. Previously, almost all members of the committee had expressed support for the proposal, and Tuesday's meeting had been designed to give the few opponents a last chance to state their case.

Virshubski plans to request another vote next week. He says that both Michael Eitan (Likud) and Jacques Amir (Alignment), who favour his proposal, were occupied with the visiting Council of Europe delegation when the vote was taken.

Committee chairman Micha Reisner was one of those who made an about-face. Having backed the proposal enthusiastically over the past three months, he suddenly argued that no change should be made during the present Knesset. Instead, the committee should prepare an entirely new code of ethics (Virshubski only wanted to amend Para. 12) to take effect in the next Knesset.

In the end, the committee decided to set up a subcommittee to examine "the entire subject of the rules of ethics for MKs" and report back within three months. That sounds like an elegant burial of Virshubski's proposal. The gravediggers included Sara Doron, head of the Likud Knesset group.

What Virshubski is seeking is not new: it was originally intended to be the heart of the code of ethics adopted by the House Committee in November 1983. But at the committee's final discussion, Para. 12 was emasculated at the insistence of Likud MKs Ronnie Milo and Ehud Olmert, both lawyers. (Alignment MK Moshe Shahal complemented the lawyer triumvirate that all along had pressured the Knesset subcommittee to propose a soft code.)

Whereas the original Para. 12 prescribed an outright ban on MKs representing clients before any governmental body, the version adopted excepted those cases where the latter is represented by its legal adviser. The attorney-general then made it mandatory for governmental bodies to be thus represented — and the lawyer MKs have been able to live with that very nicely.

Income tax officials suspect 'fowl' play

TEL AVIV (Itim). — A malpractice suit filed by a disgruntled patient put income tax investigators on the trail of a Ramat Gan dentist and eventually led them to a chicken stuffed with \$2,300 in his refrigerator.

This was reported in the Magistrates' court here yesterday when charges of income tax evasion were filed against Dr. Ya'acov Yanovitz. The income tax investigation began when a former patient testified in a malpractice case that she had paid the dentist in cash and he did not

want to issue a receipt.

When tax officials went to search his flat several days ago, a tax investigator said, the dentist refused to open the door, and did so only when the police were called in. In addition to the stuffed chicken, the investigators found documents which, they say, indicate that he failed to report income.

Yanovitz said that he keeps proper records of his income and that the woman made up her story. He was released on bail of NIS 10,000.

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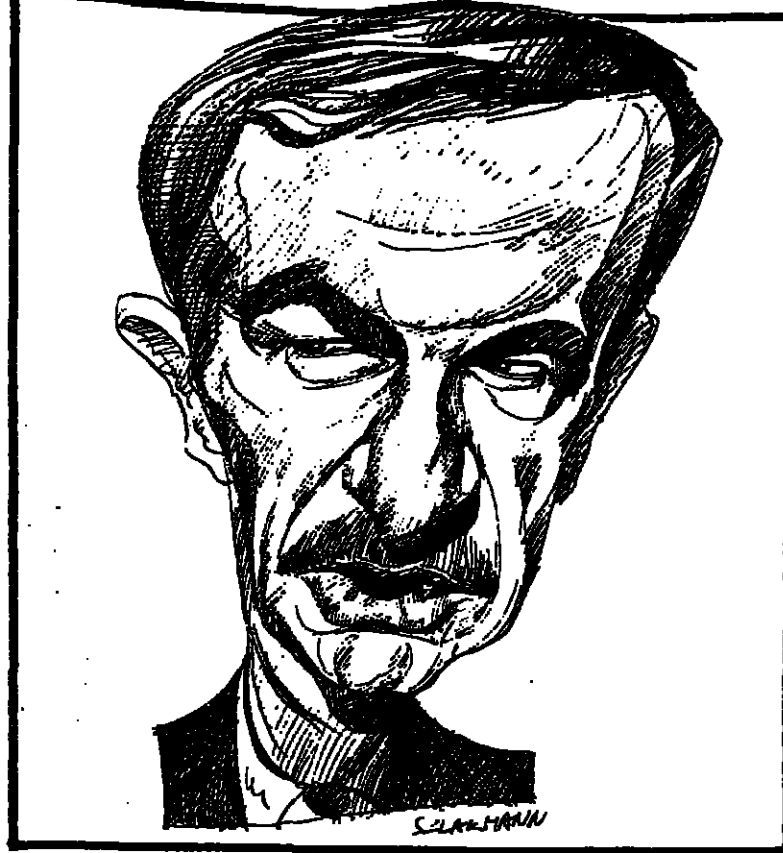
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Syria on the breadline

Jerusalem Post Middle East Editor Yehuda Litani examines President Assad's biggest problem.



SYRIA'S economic situation has gotten so bad that even the country's press, known traditionally for its strong support for the regime, in recent months has been publishing a barrage of readers letters complaining about the hardships.

The two speeches made by Syrian President Hafez Assad last month attracted Israeli interest principally because of their bearing on Israeli-Syrian relations. He again spoke about achieving "strategic parity" with Israel, and for the first time discussed making the Golan Heights "the centre" of Syria.

However, the main part of his speeches was dedicated to the internal situation of Syria and, in particular, its economic problems. For the economy is now the main difficulty confronting the Syrian regime. Shi-

mon Peres himself said only last week that Syria is facing great economic difficulties and it follows that proper attention should be paid to them.

Palestinians who visited Syria last week say that the Syrian economy appears to be on the verge of collapse as reported in *The Jerusalem Post* on Wednesday. According to well-informed Jordanian sources, Syria's foreign currency reserves are almost exhausted, leaving the country unable to finance food imports.

Evidence of the economic catastrophe in Syria, according to these Palestinians, is shown by the queues for basic foodstuffs in Syria's major cities. People in Aleppo and Damascus are forced to queue for up to seven hours for bread and tomatoes. The level of prices in Syria re-

mained steady from February 1981 to September 1985. However, prices began to soar in that month - by an unprecedented 25 per cent. This is also reflected in the change of the black market value of the U.S. dollar in Damascus. Last December one U.S. dollar was worth 15 Syrian lira, whereas today, that same dollar buys 28 Syrian lira.

Inflation is currently spiralling at an annual rate of between 30 and 40 per cent. Iran stopped its oil exports to Syria at the beginning of 1986 because of Iraqi attacks on its main shipping terminal. For each year from 1980 to 1985, Iran sold Syria 5 million tons of oil and gave it another million tons free of charge.

As a result of the oil shortage, the Syria government is cutting back on the electricity supply to private homes. Electricity is turned off daily from 8 to 10 a.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m. (Two months ago electricity supply to private homes was turned off for three hours daily, but beginning in February this year it went up to four hours daily.)

DUE TO severe cash shortages, the Gulf states, contributions to the Syrian economy have dropped from several billion dollars annually to \$570 million this year. Moreover, it is feared that up to a third of the approximately 400,000 Syrians who now make their living in the Gulf states will be dismissed and sent back to Syria.

The Syrian economy also suffers a structural deformity stemming from its political system. Up to 25 per cent of the active work force is directly employed by the state security apparatus - the army, the secret service, police and militia. Not only are they non-productive, but they also enjoy preferred status entitling them to better salaries, housing, so-

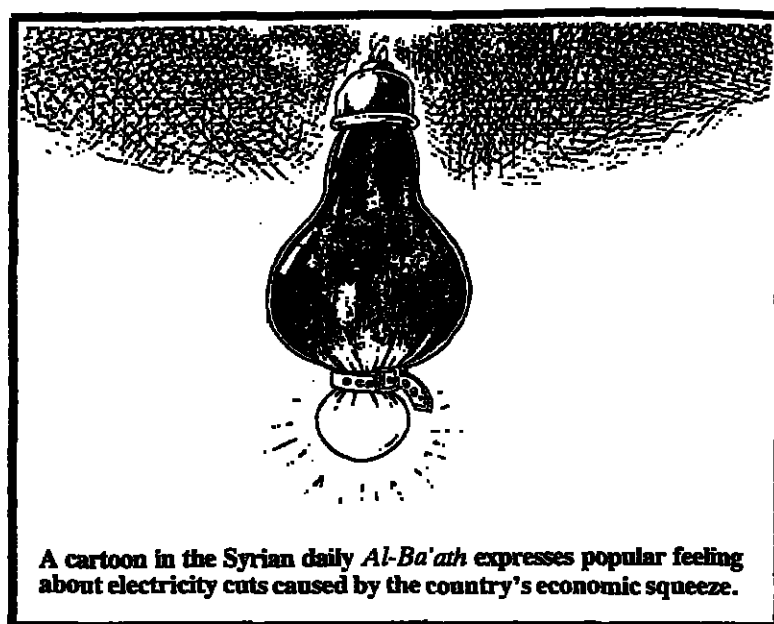
cial services, etc.

Despite Assad's bombastic rhetoric about achieving "strategic parity" with Israel, reports reaching foreign correspondents indicate that a lot of this might be a bluff. Not only are some of the new divisions he boasts of "paper" creations of a few officers and staff with no troops, but he is also reportedly making real cuts in the army.

With defence taking the lion's share of the Syrian budget, it is difficult to see how Assad will pay for increasing his current military strength of 450,000 men to the one million he set as a goal in recent speeches.

THE SYRIAN political structure, built on a covenant of minorities in which Assad's Alawite sect (10 per cent of the Syrian population) shares power with the Druse (3 per cent) and the Christians (10 per cent) to the exclusion of the Sunni majority has, up till now, proved itself. But now, in the face of severe economic restrictions and simmering resentment, the dissatisfaction of the urban elite poses a very real threat to the government.

Assad's policies of extensive development of the rural sector, came at the expense of the cities and the bourgeoisie. Until recently, the urban classes nevertheless enjoyed some measure of comfort and rising expectations. These have been dashed as the flow of oil dollars has dwindled to a trickle. Syrian businessmen may no longer travel abroad, imports, always controlled, have all but disappeared and even the dowry of a bride has gone up, forcing young people to delay marriage. In a conservative Moslem society such as Syria, this exacerbates the already existing tensions



A cartoon in the Syrian daily *Al-Ba'ath* expresses popular feeling about electricity cuts caused by the country's economic squeeze.

However, despite Syria's difficulties, Assad and his minority group allies, through the security organs and the army, remain firmly in control. At this point, it cannot be predicted whether Syria's economic plight will drive it to war against Israel or rule out such a possibility.

Some Israeli experts believe that despite its difficulties, Syria might risk going to war in the foreseeable future, counting on the Soviet Union to provide the oil, weapons and other supplies it would require. According to these experts Syria could even launch a war this year to divert attention from its internal woes and to work off the frustrations they occasion. They believe that Syria is confident that, in an hour of need, the Soviet Union would not abandon its main ally in the Middle East.

Other experts, however, doubt if Assad would be willing to wage a war this year since he lacks the funds for military expansion - needed to achieve "strategic parity" with Israel.

It should be recalled that Assad was the commander of the Syrian Air Force during the Six Day War when Israel conquered the Golan Heights. Therefore he probably feels personally responsible for their capture.

Next year marks the 800th anniversary of Saladin's victory over the Crusaders in Palestine and Syria, and Damascus is planning country-wide celebrations to commemorate the event. Assad has, on occasion, compared Israel to the Crusaders. Its desire to conquer the Golan Heights to regain his lost pride, the anniversary of Saladin's triumph and the country's internal troubles could combine to push Syria over the brink to war.

Smiles all the way

THE ARAB-Israel peace process is still stalled but Prime Minister Shimon Peres's talks here were still very useful, underlining the impressive state of U.S.-Israel relations in a host of economic, military and political areas.

Peres was justified in smiling widely upon his departure. He had seen and experienced a demonstration of friendship for Israel by Vice President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz and other U.S. officials.

This extremely close connection was most vividly underscored during Shultz's formal luncheon on Tuesday at the State Department in honor of Peres. The secretary was accompanied by his top aides, including Deputy Secretary John Whitehead and Assistant Secretary

WOLF BLITZER
Washington

Richard Murphy. The main subject on the agenda was Israel's economy. Shultz invited the main leadership of Operation Independence, a private initiative of several wealthy American Jewish businessmen aimed at revitalizing the Israeli economy by expanding exports. Max Fisher of Detroit has been the prime mover in that project and he was warmly praised by both Shultz and Peres.

Anyone with even a scant sense of Israel's troubled and painful history of relations with the State Department in the 1940s and 1950s could not but notice the revolution in relations that has occurred since then. The State Department may not be a hotbed of Zionist activity, but it certainly appears to be moving in that direction.

President Reagan, over these past five years, has sent a loud and clear message of support for Israel to the administration bureaucracy, Congress and the American public. Even during periods of tension and strain, such as during the war in Lebanon and the Pollard spy scandal, Reagan's pro-Israel gut instincts have won the day.

SHULTZ, it was clear to Peres and other Israeli officials this week, has also emerged as an outstanding friend of Israel - maybe the most pro-Israel secretary of state ever.

Under his leadership, there has been a dramatic institutionalization of the economic, political and strategic relationship between the two countries.

There has been the creation of a Free Trade Area which will eventually remove all trade barriers. There are constant high-level discussions on political issues. And military ties have been enhanced by the strategic dialogue of the Joint Political/Military Group which recently convened in Israel.

Intelligence cooperation is very strong, especially in the sharing of information on Soviet weapons systems and in the struggle to combat international terrorism.

The secretary, as was evident during his remarks at the State Department luncheon on Tuesday, has a special interest in the Israel economy, and no one appreciates this more than Peres. The prime minister spoke of his "deep respect" for Shultz, "a man who has shown dignity in office, friendship in relations, warmth and understanding." And the praise in private was even more marked.

Shultz, for his part, went out of his way to praise Israel's economic achievements this past year. And he made the connection between economic well-being and political stability - the backbone of Peres's concept of a "Marshall Plan" for the Middle East.

The Secretary promised Peres that he will give the proposal a chance; it will be discussed next month in Tokyo during an economic summit meeting of Western leaders.

"These two objectives - political stability and economic progress - are intimately related," Shultz said.

"History also teaches that nations in deep economic distress are more vulnerable to political instability, to the simplistic appeals of demagogues who preach the siren songs of war and confrontation as a diversion from problems at home. And nations whose stability is threatened are typically unable to encourage investment, the precondition of growth itself."

"I am happy to say that under Prime Minister Peres's bold and far-sighted leadership, Israel had indeed tackled its economic problems in a forthright and constructive way through a series of stabilizing measures, including reduced expenditures and a cut in real wages, and that's tough to do. But you did it."

THE SECRETARY cautioned that more sacrifices will be necessary. "This experiment in economic recovery is still in midstream," he said. But Israel has demonstrated the will

necessary to get its economic house in order once and for all.

Peres, in reply, agreed with Shultz. In order to promote economic growth, he said, the government must get out of business.

"I believe the government cannot really run business," he said, noting that it has already started to sell ailing public companies.

The government should run foreign affairs, try to achieve peace and

maintain security, he said. "Those are a lot of responsibilities for a government," Peres continued. It was essential "to make ourselves free from running business, which we cannot run."

While both Peres and Shultz paid lip service to the peace process, their aides conceded privately that there was little optimism that anything positive was in the works. But Peres was effective in his public relations, scoring points by underlining Israel's

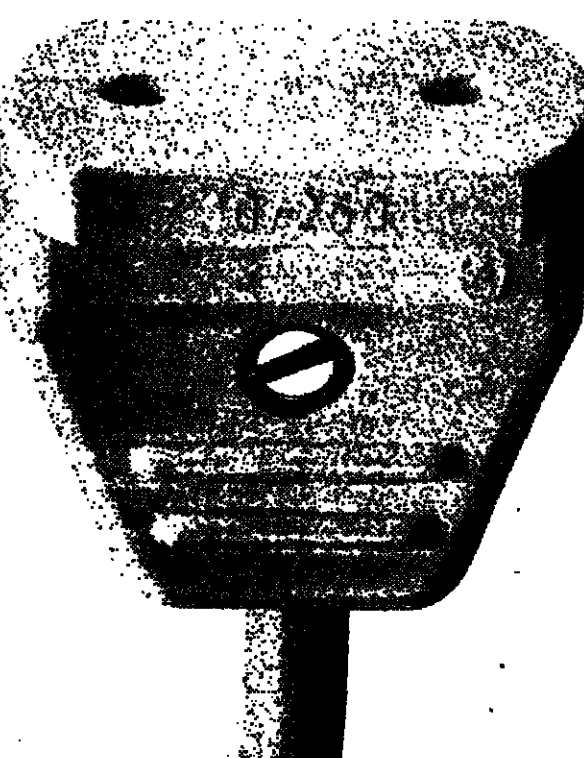
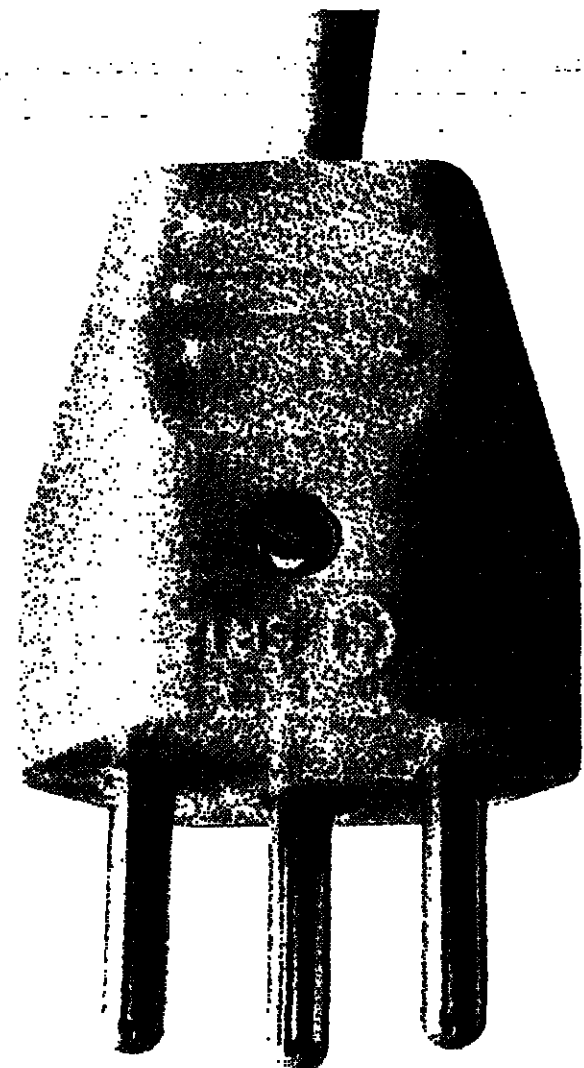
determination "not to shut any doors."

Peres is scheduled to return to the U.S. in early June to participate in a testimonial Israel Bonds dinner honoring Sam Rothberg. At that time, he is likely to meet with President Reagan who was on vacation during his current visit. Assuming that the "rotation" agreement goes into effect in October, that could be Peres's last visit to the U.S. as prime minister - at least in the existing

national unity coalition.

Americans, while largely resigned to the likelihood of the rotation, believe that Peres's career is still very healthy. They have seen his popularity in the polls increase over the past 16 months. Right now, he is Washington's favourite Israeli politician - by far. Peres is seen by U.S. officials as moderate, far-sighted and sincere. They hope to be in a position to deal with him for many years to come.

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BRILLIANT young film director Steven Spielberg arrived for a quiet seaside vacation with his actress wife, Ms. Irving, their baby son and Spielberg's mother and step-father.

Ms. Irving is playing the role of the miller's daughter in Menachem Golan's Cannon production of *Rumpelstiltskin*, along with Priscilla Pointer (mother of Pamela in *Dallas*).

Spielberg's inaccessibility is pure Hollywood - whenever Cannon general manager Yitzhak Kol wanted to talk to him in Tel Aviv, he had to direct his calls via Spielberg's secretary in Los Angeles.

Kol says *Rumpelstiltskin* will be the first of a series of films based on fairy tales. The casting possibilities for some political ones are endless: Deputy Premier and Education Minister Yitzhak Navon as Sleeping Beauty; Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir as Hansel and Gretel; or Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i as the Wizard of Oz. Consider Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin as Puss in Boots or Deputy Premier David Levy as Goldilocks with the three bears (Shamir, Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon and Minister without Portfolio Moshe Arens). Who's more suited to portray the Three Blind Mice than the National Religious Party's Yosef Burg, Agudat Yisrael's Avraham Shapira and Shas's Yitzhak Peretz?

PRIME MINISTER Shimon Peres was in good spirits at the buffet dinner he and his wife Sonia gave in honour of West German Social Democratic leader Johannes Rau and his wife Christina at their Jerusalem residence. The next morning he was off on a flying visit to the U.S., armed with ever-soaring popularity in the polls. Rafi Gil's Public Opinion Research of Israel (Pori) found in its March survey that 69.3 per cent of those asked thought him the best choice for premier, compared to 40.55 per cent when he took office in 1984.

The question facing Labour Party Secretary-General Uri Baram and other party managers is how to translate Peres's popularity into concrete electoral assets for their party. That's why Baram can safely say that next week's party convention will not impose a decision on the rotation issue on the PM. On the other hand, ex-MK Michael Bar-Zohar believes he will mobilize an anti-rotation majority among delegates. Deputy Knesset Speaker Dov Ben-Meir, a Tel Aviv branch boss, is scheduled to launch a counter-attack for upholding the rotation deadline in today's *Davar*.

BEN-MEIR was among the guests at the Pereses' party for the Raums, who included (hyper) Energy Minister Moshe Shaleh, MKs Uri Baram, Haim Ramon and David Libai. The politicians' faces did not show the general dissatisfaction felt with Libai's performance as chairman of the party's convention preparatory committee.

The West German opposition leader certainly had an opportunity to meet a cross-section of the people, including Na'amat chief Masha Lubelsky, economics guru Prof.

ANWAR NUSSEIBEH is suave, articulate, smooth, and seemingly guileless. But the interview with him published in *The Jerusalem Post* last Friday does the people he speaks for no good, because, like his predecessors and contemporaries, he is feeding them spin. His elegant distortions and outright non-truths - even if he feels compelled to believe them - explain the tragedy of the Arabs in Judea and Samaria. An examination of Nusseibeh's statements should therefore be of help all round.

Nusseibeh starts out with the time-worn cliché, that "some of my best friends are Jews" - in his case, Jewish teachers. His (Arab) school employed a Jewish teacher. (How wonderful!) Surely, says Nusseibeh, this is proof that the Arabs want to coexist with Jews.

But the PLO, whom Nusseibeh considers "the representative leader" of Judean and Samaritan Arabs, worthy successor to the Grand Mufti (of whom later), emphatically states in its Covenant of 1968 that only the "Palestinian Arabs" possess the right of self-determination and the entire country belongs to them (articles 3, 19, 20, 21). Coexistence, then, yes - as despised *dhimmi*s, second-class (Jewish and Christian dwellers on sufferance, as in Arab lands throughout history. "Coexistence" - a term dear to Western ears, a euphemism not disclosing the true meaning except to those knowing Arab history.

Nusseibeh states that the Arabs have "right on our side." By now we know what this right is: the right of denial to others. Let's say "rights" (another revered concept in the West), but we know what it implies!

AS FOR the Arab rights, according to Nusseibeh, the poor Arabs were robbed of them. Why? Because they were "ill-prepared." With their vast territories stretching from the Atlantic to the Persian Gulf, their oil resources, and their well equipped armies, they became victims of a ragtag militia of Jewish lads - outnumbered, outgunned and ill-equipped, using homemade stenguns and grenades which went off randomly. Come now, Mr. Nusseibeh!

Nusseibeh extolls "tolerant, liberal (Arab) nationalism," not chauvinism, God forbid. Tolerant, liberal -

and his wife Christina at their Jerusalem residence. The next morning he was off on a flying visit to the U.S., armed with ever-soaring popularity in the polls. Rafi Gil's Public Opinion Research of Israel (Pori) found in its March survey that 69.3 per cent of those asked thought him the best choice for premier, compared to 40.55 per cent when he took office in 1984.

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ASSASSINATIONS are not, as Nusseibeh would have it, a way of settling disputes. He is at pains to show that it also exists among us. He must go back all the way to 1933 to the Arlosoroff case. But Arlosoroff was not assassinated. He was murdered, either by Arabs or by British agents. One single case of a Jewish leader killed is a far cry from the assassinations of Arab kings, prime ministers, generals and leaders: Ali Maher, Nokrashi, Faisal of Iraq, Abdul Karim Kassem, Husni Al-Zaim, Sadat, Bashir Jemayal, King Abdul-lah - the list is endless, the practice

Once upon a time

PUBLIC FACES
Mark Segal

Michael Bruno and Dalila al-Carmel council chairman Sheikh Nouaf Halaby, Knesset and Defence Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Abba Eban excelled in explaining to Rau how the PLO was the prime roadblock to Middle East peace. Another guest, Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, told me that he had recently asked Pope Paul II to persuade the EEC to give more than its present \$2 million grant to West Bank inhabitants.

West German Ambassador Wilhelm Haas met his predecessor



Hansel (Shimon Peres) and Gretel (Yitzhak Shamir)

but one at the dinner party, Klaus Schütz, today head of Deutsche Welle, Germany's overseas broadcasting, who was there as an adviser in the Rau entourage. Haifa University president Ephraim (Eppy) Evron discussed with Schütz, who heads the university's German Friends, the dinner given in his honor recently by Kaiser Wilhelm's grandson, 78-year-old Prince Louis Ferdinand of Prussia at Burg Hohenzollern near Tübingen, attended also by Baden-Württemberg Premier Lothar Späth. The prince said, "The

Germans spat on my grandfather. But the Jews honored him." Evron explained that a bust of the Kaiser stands on Haifa's Rehov Panorama, commemorating his visit to the Holy Land, when he met Theodor Herzl. Schütz says it's the only monument to the Kaiser anywhere in the world.

I DON'T envy Yisrael Kessas's efforts to reform the Histadrut apparatus. Not unexpectedly kibbutznik Hovrat Ha'ovdim secretary Danny Resotko, sees no reason why he should be held accountable for Solel Boneh's mis-

management although he was chairman of its board. After all didn't former United Kibbutz Movement head Eli Zamir say that not the elected officers, but the technical staff, were responsible for losing \$90m?

IT REALLY could only happen in Israel. Premier Peres interrupted the cabinet meeting to bid farewell to their two veteran tea ladies: Aziza Haroush and Naomi Israeli, who've reached retirement age. Peres said: "This is the last meeting for Aziza and Naomi," and they entered to the ministers' warm greetings carrying trays full of piquant home-made oriental delicacies.

FRENCH Ambassador Jacques Dupont conferred the insignia of the Knight of the National Order of Merit on *Ma'ariv* columnist Shmuel Segal. That was one reason for the party held by Segal and his Winnipeg-born wife Phyllis at their Herzliya home. Another was his recovery from surgery on an old war wound, and a third reason was the publication by Keter of his book on Eli Cohen, *Alone in Damascus*. Film director Moshe Mizrahi has used the book as the basis of a film script.

U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Robert Flaten and wife Carroll brought a huge Easter egg to the party instead of the expected guest. Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Gary Hart. This was the third time he's cancelled coming here. If he's such a pushover, as it seems, under State Department pressure, how'll he cope with the Kremlin?

Alice Pickering, wife of the U.S.

Ambassador, opened up their Herzliya residence for the American Embassy annual fund-raising Women's Games Day. Over \$3,000 was raised for local charities from the games and raffish of prizes donated by local firms.

ISRAELI paid homage to the centenary of Arthur Rubinstein with the opening of the fifth international Piano Master competition in the great pianist's name. The international jury, chaired by our own Michael Smoira-Cohn, and including such world figures as Poland's Hanna Chrzystowska, Italy's Marcello Abado and Japan's Takahiro Sonoda, were guests at a reception given by Arthur Rubinstein-Music Society chairman Zelman Shoval, and the former MK's wife, Kena, along with the society's heads such as Esther Rubina and Yosef Haiman, its tireless director-general Ya'acov (Yasha) Bistritsky, Mayor Shalom Lahat's wife Ziva, Premier Peres's bureau chief Boaz Eppelbaum, and Italian Ambassador Corrado Taliani, shortly ending his three-year term here.

TRIBUTES have been flowing in for Deborah Lewin, editor of *Ar* magazine, who died this week. She took a moribund monthly and raised it to an international level, leading the local field. She possessed rare qualities, reflected in her friendships and her work. She was above all a person of integrity and remarkable strength of character, who had the courage and tenacity to overcome the agonies of a dreadful, wasting illness and maintain an even flow of work until her last days.

The annotated Nusseibeh

Shlomo Tadmor takes issue with Anwar Nusseibeh (right)

terms which are music to Western ears (but have no roots in Arab history and are not practiced in many of the 21 Arab and/or Moslem states); terms used on naive Westerners ignorant of history.

"Tempered by Islam" yet Islam - the militant religion of the sword and the Jihad commandments against the infidel. Tolerance - of the kind shown to slaughtered Christians or ghettoized Jews living in Arab states. Liberalism - of the hand-chopping and death by lapidation variety, of the suppression of women and the bloodthirstiness of Saddam Hussein and Assad. Liberalism - as practised on the exterminated Assyrians and decimated Kurds in Iraq, discriminated Copts in Egypt, butchered Blacks in the Sudan, and crucified pregnant Armenian women in Turkey.

History is, of course, full of brutality. One need not single out the Arabs. But please Mr. Nusseibeh, give your would-be partners in coexistence some credit.

Which brings us to Haj Amin el-Husseini, the mufti of Jerusalem. "An extremely charming man," says Nusseibeh. "He wasn't bigoted." But what would you call his blatant and bloodcurdling incitement against Jews? "He wasn't illiberal," says Nusseibeh. Now what does that mean in the context of the authoritarian, intolerant, and bloody tradition that the mufti comes from?

After the UN partition resolution in 1947, we are informed by Nusseibeh that "things began to become violent - a bomb thrown here, someone attacked there." However, he fails to say who it was that threw the bombs and initiated the attacks. As a Jerusalemite, he must certainly remember that it was not a Jewish mob which marched into the Old City, but an Arab one, (motivated by people "who were religious dress," to use his innocuous phrase) who burned down and sacked the Jewish commercial district of the city; that Arab bands attacked Jewish settlements and ambushed Jewish cars on the roads following the partition resolu-

tion. It was Kaukji's "liberation army" which attacked Mishmar HaEmek and other settlements, not Jews who attacked Arab villages. Nusseibeh correctly relates that the Arabs were waiting for "regular Arab armies to enter." But not "to save the situation," as he puts it, because the Arabs were not threatened. We accepted the partition plan. We neither coveted nor entered the parts allocated to become the Palestinian Arab State. It is they who would deny us our portion and who on May 15, 1948 invaded the parts earmarked as the Jewish Palestinian State in order to prevent it from coming into being. It is a matter of historical record who the aggressors were and who proudly announced their intentions at the UN for the whole world to know.

Had the Arabs not invaded, there would have been no war and Nusseibeh would be living today in a Palestinian Arab State, at peace with Israel, and without Arab refugees. But once aggression was committed, the war was on. There was violence in all wars. Still, there were no Jewish battle orders of the kind we found in 1967 in Arab military posts, in which villages were to be destroyed and their inhabitants slaughtered.

WHETHER Jordanian rule in Judea and Samaria (and the Egyptian occupation of the Gaza Strip) was a result of annexation or of a request by the Palestinians for a union (the latter is Nusseibeh's choice) is irrelevant. The world certainly considered it annexation (only Britain and Pakistan recognized it). If, on the other hand, it was by Palestinian request, and they later discovered they weren't Jordanians after all, why did they acquiesce in Jordanian rule for 19 years? Why didn't they ask for their independence from Jordan and Egypt? Why didn't they appeal to the Arab League? (And why didn't the goody-goodies in the world demonstrate on their behalf, their conscience awakened only on

June 11 1967?)

I understand the predicament of Palestinians. Minding the Jordanians (who one day may rule them again) they must call what happened in 1948/9 "union." But remembering the PLO (and for not minding it, some have paid with their lives) they must call it "annexation." In any event it is a case of *anachronism*, of jubilant acceptance of a yoke which conveniently is claimed to have been imposed. For this predicament, the Palestinians have no one to blame but themselves - or perhaps their leaders who misled them.

The Palestinians of today must decide to fish or cut bait. They cannot go on forever thinking of themselves as both annexed (PLO) and united with Jordan (Mr. Nusseibeh). Either they are the province of a larger political unit, because "no good comes of creating more little states" (a phrase Nusseibeh applies when thinking of the future Israel in 1947 - but curiously doesn't apply when it comes to a Palestinian state, a term he never uses explicitly in his interview), or they are a national unit (ceasing to be part of what is usually called the greater Arab nation).

AT THIS point, Nusseibeh makes a historical confession. He recalls Palestinian attitudes, which were also enunciated in the many conversations between Jewish and Arab leaders in the Twenties and Thirties. We took those sentiments and statements at face value and for doing so we are forever castigated for disregarding "Palestinian aspirations," but it seems they didn't exist even in Arab minds then. (They didn't exist until they were artificially created by Egypt in 1964, when it created the PLO as its political tool.) But let Nusseibeh tell it in his own words: "The very idea of little countries with borders between them was a new import from Europe. We had until recently been members of a Moslem empire."

The upshot, however, was that in 1947/8, in the attempt to rob us of our inheritance, the Arabs robbed themselves of their own. They may have invited a guest for dinner, but in the play, he stayed on and on, making himself very much at home. It was a mistake, for which you must pay a price. To expect somebody else to pay it is immature. However, one can try to learn from history. This the Palestinian Arabs doggedly refuse to do.

Nusseibeh claims that Hussein had no choice but to attack Israel in the Six Day War. I respect his read-

ing of the situation, even in hindsight. But his "belief" that we would have attacked anyway is an implausible exercise in rationalization, not warranted by the facts. We sent emissaries to King Hussein imploring him to stay out as we were having to defend ourselves on two fronts. We had no immediate quarrel with Jordan. But Hussein was misled by Nasser and believed he had to jump on the winning bandwagon. Prudence would have dictated sitting on the fence (an art in which the King excels) for just another 48 hours, by which time the campaign in the South would have been over and with it the real war. Like Mussolini in 1940, who only thought of easy pickings when France was down and out and who didn't think of 1943, Hussein on June 6th (the second day of the war) couldn't think as far as June 8.

Unlike Mussolini, he didn't pay the price and I am afraid he drew the wrong conclusions from that bit of luck.

As to UN Resolution 242, Nusseibeh says that the Israeli interpretation of it precluded Israeli withdrawal from all the territories and therefore "Hussein didn't call Dayan." But the word "all" never appears in the resolution. It was omitted on purpose by the resolution's drafters, precisely in order to make clear that total withdrawal was not intended by the resolution. It reads: "Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict." I can see that this isn't acceptable to the Arabs, but to say "it ain't so" won't change it.

Nusseibeh has his timetable mixed up when he explains that "Hussein didn't call Dayan" because of Israel's interpretation of 242: the war ended on June 10th. Nobody even dreamed then of 242. It didn't exist. But there was silence from Amman. On June 19th, the Israeli cabinet decided to offer territories in return for peace, a fact not unknown in Amman. Again - silence. Then on August 29, 1967 - still no 242 - the three "no's of Khartoum" (no peace, no recognition, no negotiations) were postulated by an Arab summit. Resolution 242 was adopted

in New York on November 22, 1967. If our interpretation of that resolution was the obstacle to opening peace talks, where was Hussein for fully five months prior to it? Nusseibeh advises us to talk to the PLO: "They say they want to talk peace." But nobody ever heard them say so. None of the literally thousands of belligerent statements made over the years by PLO leaders and spokesmen deviate from the principle of "armed struggle as the only way to liberate Palestine" (article 9 of the covenant of 1968).

ARAB LEADERS must stop living in a world of wishful thinking, of a reality which never was. They must come to grips with the (often unpleasant) facts of life. The Sinai wasn't Egyptian "holy land" for 4000 years, as Sadat (a charming man) blithely used to claim, nor was Palestine a "verdant area" before the advent of the Jews, as Arafat fantasized in his UN speech on November 13, 1974. It was stony, deadly marshes, and centuries-old decay.

I guess Nusseibeh's claim of his family having lived for 1400 years in Jerusalem falls into the same category. I am sure that he believes it but it doesn't stand up to historical scrutiny. The Arabs took Jerusalem in 638 CE and 1348 years have elapsed since then. It isn't the discrepancy of a piddling 52 years that bothers me (I like round figures, too). It is that tracing one's ancestry that far back is pure poetic licence. Is there a list of the soldiers who, under Khalid Ibn Thabit, took Jerusalem?

But this line, like many others in his interview, presents only distorted shadows, the facts twisted into tendentious meanings.

This is especially disappointing when it comes from a man of Nusseibeh's erudition and stature. If he had had just the will to face up to the facts as they were (and are), perhaps his people wouldn't have so many problems. He would shake them out of their delusions and self-deceptions rather than reinforce them.

What is called the "Palestinian tragedy" is to a very great extent self-inflicted. We cannot solve their problems for them any more than somebody else could have solved ours had we totally misread the map. And no, Mr. Nusseibeh, it isn't a question of us "having all the cards" - this is precisely the deadly fatalism which paralyzes action. Rather it is a question of not waiting for others to do the job for you.

The writer is a former director-general of the Jewish Agency.

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Waldheim poses problems at the UN

WALTER RUBY/New York

ALTHOUGH located in the centre of New York, the United Nations has always been a self-enclosed universe, operating according to political and cultural rhythms radically at variance from the world directly outside its tightly guarded gates.

Rarely however, has the dissonance between the UN and surrounding America been as overwhelming as during the last month, as former Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has been beset by an ever growing welter of charges pinpointing him as an intelligence officer in a German army unit that carried out brutal atrocities against Yugoslav partisans and civilians, and supervised the shipment of more than 50,000 Greek Jews from the city of Salonika to the crematoria in Auschwitz and Treblinka.

Outside the UN there have been angry denunciations of Waldheim by Jewish groups, and harshly critical editorials in a growing number of newspapers, including *The New York Times* which said last week that Waldheim's "nonchalance is staggering and his denials are disingenuous."

In Congress, Senator Pete Wilson (R-Cal.) has introduced a "sense of the Senate" resolution calling on the U.S. Justice Department to examine the documents concerning Waldheim submitted to it by the World Jewish Congress, and to issue a public report on whether or not he had a role in war crimes.

However, inside the UN itself things have been much quieter, and the visitor feels wary a ripple of the cascading flood of charges and revelations about Waldheim that have been a staple of the American media for over a month.

So far, more than a month after the first revelations, not a single word on the subject of Waldheim has been uttered from the rostrums of the Security Council, General Assembly, or at meetings of any of the many UN committees.

FRANCOIS GIULIANI, the suave ever-so-diplomatic spokesman for the United Nations is the only UN official who has had to deal directly

with the Waldheim issue, being increasingly badgered about the subject by reporters at his daily press briefings. In the early stages of the story, Giuliani dismissed questions concerning Waldheim with an airy "no comment" stressing that the issue had nothing to do with the present agenda of the UN.

However after the WJC announced that U.S. Army documents it had uncovered showed that there was a UN War Crimes Commission document stating that Yugoslavia had charged Waldheim with murder in 1947, Giuliani was confronted with questions, demanding to know why the UN did not open its archives to the WJC and others interested in recovering the Waldheim file.

The spokesman promised to look into the question and after several days, said that the rules the UN inherited from the now defunct War Crimes Commission did not allow it to allow a non-governmental body like the WJC to peruse the documents. But the UN would open the archives to any government that made such a request.

He noted there are precedents for such a request. The UN allowed Israeli investigators to peruse documents on Adolf Eichman in 1961, and allowed the French access to files in 1982 related to the recently captured Klaus Barbie.

Giuliani seemed close to exasperation last Tuesday when I asked him what the UN thinks of demands by the WJC and others that Waldheim's pension, estimated by the WJC at nearly \$100,000 a year, be suspended until he clears the cloud over his head.

He refused to confirm the pension figure, stating, "I don't think we'll make that information public. Waldheim is now a private citizen as well as a candidate in a presidential election in a member state." Giuliani said that to consider withholding Waldheim's pension would be "tantamount to interfering in the internal affairs of Austria. It would certainly be a very delicate matter."

Giuliani said he had been surprised by the Waldheim revelations.



Former UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim (second from left) meets Italian and German officers at a Yugoslav airstrip in 1943.

"The question of alleged Nazi ties came up in questions to our office in the late 1970s and when we asked Waldheim how to respond to the questions, he told us there was absolutely no truth to it. He always rejected such charges."

RUDOLPH STAJDUHAR, a Yugoslavian national who served as Waldheim's spokesman throughout the decade of the 1970s, and today is a senior fellow at the United Nations Institute of Training and Rehabilitation (Unitar) is the UN bureaucrat in the most peculiar position vis a vis the Waldheim affair.

A partisan in the Communist guerrilla forces under Tito in World War II, Stajduhar ended up serving at the UN under a man who served as a high ranking intelligence officer in a German army group responsible for repeated massacres of Yugoslav partisans.

"I was very surprised when I heard these charges against Waldheim," Stajduhar said. "We lived under the impression that what was written in Waldheim's autobiography was the correct version."

Stajduhar said Waldheim had told him when he accompanied him on a visit to Yugoslavia to meet with Tito during the 1970s that he had been to Yugoslavia only once before - during his term as Austria's foreign minister during 1966-68.

Stajduhar said he would be unable to talk about his personal feelings about Waldheim until his government took a clear stand on the issue. That may not happen for some time, since last week the Yugoslav government refused to offer any comments "for the time being" on the reports in the Yugoslav press on documents on Waldheim in the national archives in Belgrade.

The government spokesman expressed Yugoslavia's determination not to appear to interfere in any way in the Austrian election. Yet the fact that the government allowed the press access to the documents seemed to represent a desire to finesse the issue by allowing damaging information about Waldheim to become public without appearing responsible for the revelations.

I asked Stajduhar about an anonymous letter received last month by

the Simon Weisenthal Center in Los Angeles, apparently from a right wing Serbian group in Chicago. The letter claimed that Tito had succeeded in blackmailing Waldheim during the latter's period as Austrian foreign minister, (1966-68) by threatening Waldheim that unless he supported increased autonomy for Slovenes living in parts of southern Austria, the Yugoslavs would make public damaging Waldheim documents.

Stajduhar did not dismiss the theory. He commented, "Waldheim was definitely more sympathetic on the issue (of Slovenian autonomy) than any other Austrian leader." Stajduhar said that Waldheim had expressed sympathy in interviews with Yugoslav newspapers for the cause of autonomy for Slovenes in Austria when secretary-general, and had been one of the voices in Austria who had successfully pushed for implementation of the idea at the end of the 1960s. The Slovenian population in southern Austria today have their own schools where the Slovene language is taught.

A CORRESPONDENT for an Arab newspaper from the Persian Gulf region said that the Arab nations have been uncertain how to deal with the Waldheim issue. "The attention of the Arab countries has been focused on the U.S.-Libya confrontation over the last two weeks, and they are only now beginning to focus on Waldheim," the correspondent said, adding: "There may be some feeling among the Arabs that this is part of a Zionist attack on the UN as an institution, but they are not certain how to respond to all of the facts that have been brought out about the case, which appear to be very damning for Waldheim."

Asked about the Waldheim affair by this reporter, Zehdi Terzi, the permanent representative here of the PLO, said: "The matter is pending, so let the process of justice take its course, and don't prejudice issues. We must wait and see." Terzi declined to respond when asked if he believed there was a Zionist campaign against Waldheim in order to weaken the UN.

One nation that may be particularly concerned about the growing cloud over Waldheim is the Soviet Union, which according to a number of sources was the nation which early on gave Waldheim the support he needed to become secretary-general.

The leading candidate for the post of secretary general in 1971 was the longtime Finnish representative here, Max Jacobson, who happened to be half Jewish. The Soviets were adamantly against his candidacy apparently because of his Jewish ties, and also because he happened to be the author of a book about the Russian-Finnish War of 1939 that was very critical of the Soviets.

The race for the secretary generalship in 1971 came down to Jacobson and Waldheim, with the Austrian finally getting the nod because of adamant Soviet opposition to Jacobson, who initially had the support of the Western countries.

The U.S. eventually accepted Waldheim, but the British delegation protested his selection by abstaining on the final vote of Security Council members (all others supported Waldheim).

British hostility is said to have been due to Waldheim's admitted service in the German Wehrmacht

during World War II. He fought on the eastern front before he was wounded and sent home in 1942. Ironically, the Soviets never gave any indication they resented Waldheim for fighting against the Soviet army during the war.

ACCORDING to several sources, Waldheim leaned toward the Arabs during his 10 years in office without appearing to be totally biased in the Middle East conflict.

"In his continual effort to keep the majority bloc behind him for re-election, he lost no opportunity to condemn Israel and South Africa, one European correspondent said. "The minute there was a slight skirmish on the border, Waldheim would come out with a statement condemning the Israelis, while he always seemed to turn a blind eye to whatever the Arabs did. During the Entebbe Affair, he made some unwise statements condemning the Israeli rescue operation as a violation of Ugandan sovereignty."

David Horowitz, a veteran correspondent for a string of Anglo-Jewish newspapers, was the only person at the UN I spoke to who said he had had a warm personal relationship with Waldheim. "The irony for me in finding out now he was a Nazi is that he was always very warm and outgoing to me personally. Of all the secretary-generals I have known, he was the most supportive of UNCA (the UN Correspondents Association) of which I was president."

Horowitz says that despite his warm personal relations with Waldheim, the Austrian was not friendly to Israel. "It was during his two terms that we had the visit of Arafat, the passage of 'Zionism is racism,' and ever more vociferous attacks on Israel. Waldheim personally came across as neutral, but he made no effort I know of to stop the anti-Israel drift."

While the Waldheim affair has unquestionably become an irritant for the UN, from the point of view of present Secretary-General, Peru's Javier Perez de Cuellar, the affair is having the unintended positive effect of unfavourably contrasting Waldheim's haughty and now Nazi-linked image, with the self-effacing humble Third World style of Perez de Cuellar.



Austrian presidential candidate Waldheim

(Reuters)

Burden of proof

ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

DESPITE POINTED nudges by American Jewish organizations, the Israeli government has maintained a firm distance from the allegations by the World Jewish Congress (WJC) that Kurt Waldheim was a Nazi war criminal. The WJC's senior official in Israel until two months ago, together with Israel's leading historian of the Holocaust, believe the restraint should be maintained until there is hard evidence to support charges stronger than that Waldheim lied about his past.

"Until now there is no unequivocal evidence against him," says S. Zalman Abramov who resigned as chairman of the Israel Executive of the WJC in January and is now honorary vice-president. "What is needed now are good archivists to establish the facts."

Abramov, an ex-Knesset member and retired lawyer, termed as "most unfortunate" the timing of the charges on the eve of the Austrian elections in which Waldheim is a candidate for president.

Abramov suggested that WJC general-secretary Israel Singer, who conducted the press conferences in New York at which the allegations against Waldheim were made, "may have been carried away by his youthful elan." He advised the Israeli government to continue to maintain its detached stance until after the Austrian elections at which time it undertake a study of the relevant documents. Noting that the WJC has called upon the Israeli government to take an immediate position on the matter, he said: "A government is not a voluntary society. It has to take a responsible and restrained position."

Prof. Yehuda Bauer of Hebrew

University, a leading authority in Holocaust studies, likewise took a cautious stance on the issue. "I don't have a special attitude about this," he said. "The accusations are very serious but nothing has yet been proven."

It was strange, said Bauer, that no one had yet checked the Berlin Documentation Centre where all members of the Nazi Party were listed to see if Waldheim was a member of the party.

As for the charges linking him with the deportation of Jews from Salonika, said Bauer, Waldheim was plainly lying when he said he had no knowledge of it but there has been no evidence linking him directly to the operation. There is a difference, says Bauer, between knowing something and bloodying one's hands. Likewise, being an intelligence officer charged with interrogations does not automatically make someone guilty of torture, he noted. Waldheim was a junior officer of the military intelligence, said Bauer, and not of the SS.

Nevertheless, there is more that is unknown about Waldheim's war record than is known. Waldheim himself notes that he was a member of a cavalry unit on the eastern front during one period. "I'd like to know which unit," says Bauer. "There was one cavalry unit notorious for its murder of Jews."

None of the documents produced to date establish Waldheim as a war criminal, says Bauer.

A former Israeli diplomat who knew Waldheim socially in North America described him this week as "a lightweight" personality who never to his knowledge displayed any anti-Jewish sentiments.

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Unity government – a tribute to self-interest

ROY ISACOWITZ

THE NATIONAL unity government is a political hypochondriac. It constantly complains of its pains and ailments and threatens to expire with monotonous regularity. Yet, just as predictably, it shrugs off all its terminal crises with deceptive ease and carries on in far better health than many of its predecessors.

A case in point was the battle of the budget. The government began to feel queasy several months ago when, in the absence of King Hussein, Labour Party tacticians latched onto socio-economic policy as the best excuse for a terminal illness. Its ostensible state of health got progressively worse as the growth crisis, the Solel Boneh crisis and even the agriculture crisis joined the list of maladies.

Yet, this week, with only minutes to go to the end of the financial year, the government managed to pass the budget, approve assistance for the embattled concerns, and silence the dissenters in its ranks. And it did all this with an elegance seldom witnessed in Israeli politics.

The unity government is a tribute to the power of self-interest. It was born out of self-interest, notwithstanding the lofty pronouncements by leaders of both Labour and the Likud, and it continues to serve the interests of the two major partners. When either decides that its interests are better served elsewhere, the unity government will die.

The prospect of an all-out battle over the budget and its attendant economic problems was defused by means of that typically Israeli stratagem, the package deal. Assistance for the Labour-aligned enterprises was made conditional on approval of the Likud-fashioned budget. Everyone had to compromise and no-one was entirely satisfied. But Israel began the fiscal year with an approved budget and Solel Boneh and Kupat Holim Clalit were provided with a reasonable chance of straightening themselves out. All in all, it was the best possible solution.

SUNDAY'S cabinet meeting and the subsequent budget debate in the Knesset were the climax of a long and complex series of political ploys. The main elements, on the Labour side, were the desire to avoid rotation, the need to bail out the Histadrut concerns, and the ideological posturing of a group of "socially



Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i would allow the unemployment rate to rise. (Guthmann)

aware" MKs. The Likud's guiding principles were the need to ensure rotation at all costs, a historic antipathy to the Histadrut and the (attenuated) allegiance to Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i.

Labour's anti-rotationists got to work even before the draft budget was first tabled, over two months ago. They succeeded in provoking the misnamed growth crisis and eliciting the lukewarm support of Prime Minister Shimon Peres. At the urging of ministers Ezer Weizman, Ya'acov Tsur and Gad Ya'acobi, among others, Peres suddenly proclaimed economic growth as the top national priority and demanded guaranteed economic powers for himself in the post-rotation era.

The Likud predictably rejected the demand for increased powers but agreed to the allocation of some \$450 million in credit as the price of ensuring rotation. The agreement on the \$450m. was sufficiently muddled to reduce the likelihood of its ever being implemented.

Peres's concern for his personal credibility and his genuine commitment to the economic good of the country cooled down the growth crisis. Some Labour ministers hinted darkly, after the agreement on the credit allocation, that the demand for economic powers would be resuscitated after the Herut convention – and it yet may be. But it is

Everyone compromised over budget, but no-one was entirely satisfied



Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar has spearheaded opposition to the budget within Labour. He calls unemployment 'Public Enemy No.1.' (PPA)

highly unlikely that it could be used as a credible excuse for bringing down the government.

More serious was the opposition of the "socially aware" MKs to the health, education and welfare allocations in the draft budget. This was composed by the Treasury and approved by the cabinet with the full backing of Peres. It constitutes an integral element of the economic policy on which Peres has staked his career. Yet it is a budget sharply at variance with the traditional concepts of the Labour movement.

THE OPPOSITION to the budget within Labour was spearheaded by Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar, who heads a virtual party within a party. Where Kessar and his legions regard unemployment as Public Enemy Number One, Peres has tacitly accepted the Moda'i line that a certain measure of unemployment is an unavoidable by-product of economic stabilization.

Kessar and his colleagues, among whom were MKs Ora Namir, Haim

Ramon and Nava Arad, demanded the re-allocation of resources to prevent unemployment. They also announced their opposition to the proposed levies on education, health and pensions, threatening to vote against the budget if their demands were not met.

The Labour back-benchers proposed alternative sources of funding. Kessar remarked that moderate inflation was preferable to unemployment, an approach which is anathema to the Treasury. Labour faction whip Rafi Edri proposed the imposition of a capital gains tax, and almost had Peres agreeing with him before jumpy investors closed the Stock Exchange for a day.

The question of a health levy was overtaken by the debt crisis engulfing Kupat Holim Clalit. In fact, the entire question of growth was submerged by the near-bankruptcy of much of the construction industry, the agricultural sector and the flagship concerns in Israel's high-tech industry. Growth was revealed

as a government bail-out in different clothing.

To Labour's embarrassment, most of those who approached the government cap in hand were members of the so-called "Labour economy." Their protestations that they were victims of the central bank's policy on interest rates did not prevent charges of mismanagement in Hevrat Ha'ovdim, the Histadrut holding company.

Among those who criticized Hevrat Ha'ovdim were Labour MKs and ministers. Their criticism prompted a strong rejoinder from its secretary, Danny Rosolio, who accused his party colleagues of "questioning the very basis" of the Labour economy. It was yet another indication of the deep ideological rift between the "socialist" Labour Party in the Histadrut and the "neo-liberal" Labour Party in the government.

IRONICALLY, the debt crisis came as a boon to Peres, who was able to use it as a means of keeping the rebellious back-benchers in line. The reasoning went thus:



Prime Minister Shimon Peres proclaimed economic growth the nation's top priority. (Brammer)

If the budget were not passed, the Likud would not agree to assistance for Solel Boneh, Kupat Holim and the cotton farmers. And if assistance were not approved, tens of thousands of workers would find themselves jobless, the health services would collapse, and the land would lie fallow. It was a persuasive argument.

The package deal took shape in a series of meetings involving the government, the Histadrut and the party caucuses in the Knesset. The government and the Histadrut agreed in principle to the implementation of stabilization plans for Solel Boneh and Kupat Holim, as drawn up by government officials. The price for the Histadrut was high. It undertook to retrench over 4,000 employees and to sell assets to raise funding.

By the time Peres opened Sunday's crucial cabinet meeting he had the full support of the Alignment ministers. The Likud ministers were a different question. Moda'i had publicly rejected handouts of the magnitude proposed, and the consequences of the Herut split were difficult to predict. Peres, his aides said, was prepared for a fight.

In the event, the meeting was the epitome of conviviality – thanks, in large part, to Housing Minister David Levy, who delivered a sturdy defence of Peres's recommendations. He proposed that, in addition

to Solel Boneh, other construction companies and health funds receive state assistance. This was accepted readily by the Labour ministers, only Science Minister Gideon Palti, Liberal, voted against it.

Later in the day, Peres pushed the package deal through the coalition and factions, warning the Labour MKs that if the budget were not passed in the plenum, Solel Boneh and the cotton industry were liable to collapse. The Labour rebels reluctantly bought his argument, warning that they would continue to campaign against the imposition of the levies.

THE DRAFT budget, submitted for its second and third readings on Monday, included an education levy, a tax on motor cars and a tax on pensions. It did not include the allocations demanded by Kessar for the creation of jobs. With the outcome assured, the debate was lacklustre, even, in the words of opposition MKs, desirous.

The budget was passed by a huge majority, with Ya'acov Shamai, chairman of the Herut faction in the Histadrut, voting against and Kessar and Namir not participating in the vote. For Kessar, the entire exercise was particularly delicate. A vote for the budget would have left him open to charges of selling out the workers; but a vote against would have been a slap in the face of the government that had agreed the previous day to bail out the failing Histadrut concerns.

Approval of the budget and the assistance has left many loose strings. As their part of the bargain, Solel Boneh and Kupat Holim Clalit will have to dismiss workers and introduce efficiency measures, activities in which Histadrut enterprises have not excelled in the past. Other companies will undoubtedly arrive at the government's doorstep with outstretched hands, and solutions still have to be found to the chronic unemployment in the development towns.

But none of this is likely to hamper the robustness of the unity government. When mutual self-interest is at stake, a package deal will always be found to meet the needs of both parties. If the government faces any potential danger, it is probably from internal political processes within the Alignment or the Likud.

The possibilities, at this stage, are a split in Herut, secession of the Liberals from the Likud, or a decision by the Labour congress to renege on the rotation agreement. But no-one is waiting with bated breath.

There is a lot of lip service, but no money for the arts

MARK SEGAL

EVEN a cursory survey of the Israeli scene gives the impression of artistic ferment, with much going on in theatre, music and other arts. Comparing the weekend Pull-Out section of *The Jerusalem Post* to the same feature in the *Washington Post* makes one appreciate our brash metropolis on the Mediterranean. It equals if not surpasses the American capital in cultural activities.

Closer analysis, however, provides cause for concern for our society between the great sea and the great desert. So far that intangible element of quality of life has been sustained like the desert cactus nurtured by a minimum of water. But even the sturdy cactus can wither away.

We are faced with the onslaught of obscurantist forces, to quote Abba Eban, seeking to push us back into the ghetto. Indeed never has there been such a concerted bid to close the minds of the younger generation

to new ideas and to a broadening vision of the contemporary world.

With all due respect to the importance of fostering our ancestral heritage, one notes that millions of dollars of tax-payers' money is diverted to yeshivot – many inculcating anti-Zionist values for reasons of coalition expediency while state funds for higher education declined. Indeed, were it not for our universities' fund-raising operations abroad, there might be a question mark over their survival as serious institutions of learning. Millions pour into the hands of those with a shield mentality, while a pittance in government funds goes to foster the arts.

Allocations to the Ministry of Education's Division of Arts and Culture speak volumes: In 1983, \$22m.; in 1984, \$14.7m.; and in 1985, \$13m. The American-Israel Cultural Foundation's contribution, albeit most valuable, has stagnated between \$1.5m. and \$2m. recently.

It is worthwhile noting the generally low level of cultural philanthropy of our business sector. Not that the Histadrut does much either, certainly not as much as it should. As for the moral and cultural pretensions of the kibbutzim, unlike the landed gentry in other lands, they give little back to the general community.

In the corporate world two of the three banks do give to the arts – Bank Leumi and the Discount Bank. Three names from the financial world reappear wherever one looks at private support for culture, education and the arts – Yosef Hakmi (Phoenix Insurance), Discount Investment's Benno Gitter and Leon Recanat of the Discount Banking Family. These men, especially Recanat, set an example for the rest of the business community. Unfortunately it is not widely followed by their fellow capitalists, especially the newer vintage, who apparently expect others to do the endorsing.

OUR political leaders pay lip service

to the arts and Israeli culture, but few ministers take much of an interest. Premier Shimon Peres received a compliment from *New Republic* publisher Martin Peretz, who called him "the most literate head of government in the world." And Peres has publicly expressed his envy of the high proportion of France's GNP that President François Mitterrand devoted to the arts; but Mr. Peres's government reached the nadir in terms of public support for the arts. Deputy Premier and Minister of Education and Culture Yitzhak Navon has proven a sore disappointment on this score. As one of the few top politicians with a reputation as a cultured man, Navon has performed way below minimum expectations.

The priorities of the Likud have never focused on cultural quality of life, but neither of Menachem Begin's governments witnessed such a sharp decline in state financing of culture and the arts as the present. The Likud's first finance minister, the late Simcha Ehrlich, was more sympathetic to this area of life than his fifth Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, who seems more alert to the needs of Gush Emunim and the Rabbi of Kretschmann than to those of the country's theatres and orchestras. The constantly dwindling sums for culture and the arts might well bring a future historian to wonder whether one achievement of the Zionist venture was to bring back the Philistines.

Much of the attention paid to culture has devolved on the local authorities, primarily Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Their respective mayors, Teddy Kollek (a wonder worker and king of the schmorrers) and Shlomo "Chich" Lahat have used the Jerusalem Foundation and the Tel

Aviv Foundation to support art. The general public knows little about how the funds are run, and Lahat raised some eyebrows by appointing and helping his old army commander, Rehavam "Gandhi" Ze'evi as director of the Ha'aretz Museum.

This year alone Lahat channelled a million dollars to what has become known as "Gandhi's Disneyland". Surely some of the city's starved cultural institutions could have done with some of that money. Unimpeachable sources have told me that three weeks ago the income tax authorities were on the verge of attaching the Tel Aviv Museum and taking legal action against its hard-pressed director, Marc Scheeps, because Mayor Lahat failed to pay its tax debts. An SOS was sent to Education Minister Navon, who delegated the director of his cultural and arts division, Avner Shalev, to mount a rescue operation.

ONE THING can be said for Chich; he will do his best not to let his own city's cultural operations founder. Unlike Beersheba Mayor Elihu Navi, who allowed the two principal cultural institutions in his city, – the Sinfonietta Beersheba and the Beersheba Theatre – reach the edge of bankruptcy. Navi played no role in insuring their rescue, which was left to the America-Israel Cultural Foundation, which mobilized \$750,000.

That foundation provides 15 per cent of our state financing of culture and the arts. Despite the influence of its Israel board, chaired by MK Mordechai Virshubski, its American board has the final say on policy and disposal of funds. In other words, major decisions on the direction of our cultural policy-making are taken

in New York and not in Jerusalem. This situation is not healthy for any sovereign state. Admittedly this issue is compounded by questions raised in recent years over the way AICF operates and the near stagnation of its fund-raising operations. But of that more later.

Several sources have told me they see this trend as an attempt to shift away from Israel's centrality in contemporary Jewish life. They all saw as the most extreme example of pressure to revive the Jerusalem-Babylon symbiosis drive, headed by Eli Wiesel, to set up a rival Holocaust memorial to Yad Vashem in the U.S. A minor case is the American society for establishing an Israeli opera, run by a former Israeli opera who refuses to co-opt any Israeli opera expert on the grounds that Americans know better.

A major one is the lack of encouragement extended by the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra to Israeli musicians, particularly Israeli conductors. The IPO reflects a snobbish aspect of so many of its upwardly

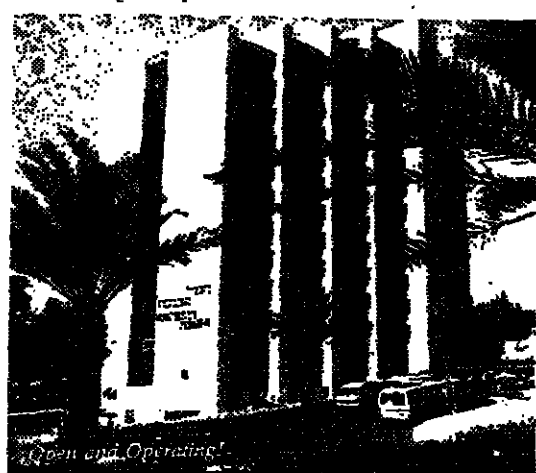
socially mobile subscribers who disdain the made-in-Israel label. It makes one wonder, especially on seeing the names of Israeli conductors on posters outside the great concert halls of the world. In other countries they consider it a point of honour to appoint local conductors but not here. There are some who argue that it is convenient for the IPO players to have a musical director who stays away most of the year. This allows them – like so many of their fellow citizens – to devote that much more time to sources of supplementary income.

I was glad to hear from Dr. Amnon Goldenberg, past president of the Chamber of Advocates and a key member of the IPO public council, of current discussions of drafting anew the IPO constitution, so as to accord more clout to representatives of the public. The IPO is not, contrary to some impressions, the private orchestra of any one individual, and there surely is a positive reply to the question: Is there life for the IPO after Zubin Mehta?

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Nothing serious — just a massacre

TELEREVIEW / Philip Gillon

WHENEVER an Israeli gangster is blown to bits by an explosive device fixed to his car or a grenade thrown into his night club, or has his throat slit from ear to ear and is hung up with the meat in an abattoir, or is made to resemble a sieve by a burst from a machine-gun, the police spokesman allays any shock the public may experience with the soothing expression, "It's nothing serious: merely the underworld settling accounts."

I thought of this balm-giving phrase while watching Yaron London savaging Yosef ("Tommy") Lapid, former director-general of the Israel Broadcasting Authority and newly appointed executive director of the new Liberal Centre Party, on *Now is the Time*. So fierce was the onslaught that an unknown viewer — from his accent I suspect that he immigrated to Israel from the country that gave us Beethoven and Bach, Goethe and Heine — phoned me in the middle of the programme to protest against the manner in which Yaron was manhandling his guest of honour. My caller said that he happened to be watching together with a large group of friends, and they were all profoundly disturbed.

I tried to explain that Yaron was just "settling accounts" with Tommy, but I doubt I got my message across. I also tried to placate my caller by pointing out that the massacre of Lapid was at least providing us with some very exciting entertainment, such as the Christians being thrown to the lions provided for the Romans. It may not have been much fun for the Christians, but at least they were cast in stellar roles.

So with Lapid. It was impossible to relapse into peaceful slumber while London was planting arrow after arrow into his shrinking victim. Candide was horrified when he watched the Inquisition burning Dr.

Pangloss at the *auto-de-fe*, but he wasn't bored. Nor, for that matter, was Dr. Pangloss.

We were given a clue right at the beginning as to what was in store for poor Tommy. Yaron asked him mildly enough what he had achieved in his years as director-general of IBA, and he answered proudly, "It's because of me, Yaron, that people can see you in colour tonight." "That may be so," retorted London. "But it was because of you that people couldn't see me at all for years on TV." This was true: Lapid had been appointed by Herut to clear out from Television House the alleged Left-Wing Mafia, and one of his first victims was London.

After that the fur began to fly. I realized why London was the compere instead of the amiable Ram Evron: no doubt he had persuaded Evron to stand down, so as to give him a go at Lapid, and whoever is in authority at Television House, had agreed that the confrontation would provide exciting television. It was a correct decision.

London had plenty of ammunition to use against Lapid, quite apart from his own grievances from Lapid's IBA days. On the face of it, Lapid had made almost a topsy-turvy turn, moving from being a staunch Herut supporter to serving the new, rebel, breakaway Liberal Party.

Lapid's explanation was ingenious. He said that he had not moved at all: what had happened was that the country had taken such a giant stride to the right that he found himself stranded in the centre. I sympathized with him: the same kind of thing has happened to me, as a result of that lurch towards Fascism. From being comfortably some way left of centre, I have been moved to the far left, without changing my opinions.

Then, Lapid explained his new allegiance by saying, "All my life I've been a liberal." This was leading with his chin, and Yaron proceeded to land hooks and uppercuts with the speed and ferocity of Larry Holmes in his prime.

On issue after issue Lapid was in trouble. Aggressive nationalism, religion, the West Bank, Lebanon — London, quoting Lapid's own words, forced him to try to reconcile his past views with his present philosophy. The new liberal failed miserably to pass the test.

Identification is a very curious thing. We television viewers are conditioned by all the films we have seen to identify with the goodies against the baddies. Ours is a simplistic world in which we always pick white hats to support against black hats. We cannot watch a programme without automatically siding with somebody.

Now let us apply the principle of identification to London versus Lapid. In politics, social philosophy, economic policy and general attitude I am sure that I am far, far closer to London than to Lapid. As a person I like Tommy, but I have always found his views way out of line.

Nevertheless, watching him looking forlorn and helpless as he was mauled so savagely by London, and seeing how hopeless his cause was, I found myself completely identified with him, squirming with him, hoping the underdog would somehow win.

He did manage to get in the last word. Closing the interview, London said, "I wish you the best of luck in your new job." Lapid replied wryly, "I wonder what kind of interview you'd have had with me, Yaron, if you didn't wish me luck."

London changed his style, personality, voice, character and even the look in his eyes when he interviewed poor Motti Malcha, the drug addict. It was a remarkable turnabout, and demonstrated what a talented interviewer he is.

His voice was gentle and his eyes were moist as he led poor Motti on the way to the inferno, from the time he began with using a little hashish to the present, completely hooked on cocaine. Motti has been in jail, and has tried to wean himself of the habit, without success. He has a wife and two little children, whom, often, he cannot bear to see. Satisfying his pitiless enemy costs him NIS 120 a day — I wonder where he gets the money?

Even sadder than Motti's description of his life was the comment of the sympathetic and intelligent woman representing Al Sam, the anti-drug organization. She said bluntly that she herself could offer almost no hope of saving Motti, that the efforts of her organization were devoted to educating the young against starting with drugs rather than trying to rehabilitate addicts like Motti.

Motti is a pleasant, soft-spoken, good-looking young man, who told

us that he had been an athlete, had studied at the Wingate Institute and had qualified as a life-saver. Now he is nothing more than a market for the wares of the Israeli Mafia. The pity of such waste is almost unendurable.

London spoke for all of us when he summed up gently, "Perhaps the courage you have shown in coming here so openly will help you to get rid of the habit." We all wish Motti the best of luck, and hope against hope that he will achieve what seems to be unachievable.

Earlier I wrote about the viewer's constant identification with people on programmes. Sometimes I can switch identification in mid-programme in a rather bewildering way.

Kolbotek was devoted entirely to an exposé by Danny Levenstein of the atrocious crimes of the Citrus Marketing Board and their myrmidons, the transport contractors, in their dealings with the poor citrus-growers. We were shown how the board never buys fruit from the poor farmers, only takes it and markets it abroad. From whatever money is obtained, the board pays itself first and then the contractors: the growers only get whatever is left, if anything.

The monopoly and tyrannical powers of the board are established by law, and they are merciless in punishing any grower who tries to market his own fruit. They arrive with the police, and, if necessary, drag a man down from his ladder to punish him. One of them said to a grower, "The trees are yours, but the fruit is ours." Their cruelty is aggravated by the incompetent way they handle and sort the fruit so that the diligent farmer is not rewarded. The result is that we have lost our hold on the European market: Jaffas have sunk to a distant second place.



Millions of dollars we used to earn have disappeared. These complaints, according to Levenstein, are supported by the State Comptroller. By the time we had seen all this, I was feeling as I felt when I saw John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*. All I wanted was to see members of the Citrus Marketing Board boiling in oil — or citrus juice.

To some extent, *Kolbotek* obliged. They produced Yitzhak Rahav, the managing director of the board, although they did not boil him. Rafi Ginat put to him two or three questions, which he answered. I thought, rationally and impressively. It began to look as if the board does not consist of a gang of Simon Legrees, and that they might have a point of view worth hearing.

Poles add pep to Israel 'Fest'

MARSHA POMERANTZ

THE 1986 Israel Festival, under artistic director Oded Kotler, has attracted some significant international artists, despite the organizational riffs and rumbles that delayed arrangements and at times made the project seem like a not-quite-midsummer night's dream. The dates are May 24-June 15, and tickets go on sale this Sunday at the Jerusalem Theatre and agencies, in a buy-three-get-one-free package-deal.

Some of the events are organized in clusters or themes and are worth attention here — particularly since the English version of the festival programme is not yet ready.

POLAND. The cultural ties re-established last December after a 19-year hiatus are multiplying. Among the visitors will be the Mazowsze folkloric troupe and the Polish Chamber Orchestra, with two programmes, one of them a cooperative venture in serenades with a new Israeli wind group under the direction of Mordechai Rechtman.

Two notable modern Polish theatre pieces are coming. One is Janusz Wisniewski's *End of Europe*, a madhouse nightmare shared by many and performed by the Teatr Nowy Poznan, which has won prizes for the production at the Edinburgh and Nancy festivals.

The second is Jozef Szajna's "poem" *Replika*, which attempts to come to grips with concentration camps, a world threatened by total destruction, and hope. Szajna is bringing his own set and directing, but it's a co-production, and the actors are from Habimah.

ON THE 50th anniversary of the death of playwright Federico Garcia Lorca in the Spanish Civil War, Spanish companies are bringing two of his works.

Yerma, the drama of a barren woman, will be done by the company of a leading interpreter of Lorca's work, Nuria Espert, under the direction of Victor Garcia. Its symbolic rendition contrasts with the production of *Blood Wedding* by the company of Jose Luis Gomez, Teatro de la Plaza, which uses 20 actors and authentic folklore to give context to the story of disappointed love and revenge.

There will also be a joint production of Spain's Teatro Gitano with Israeli dancer Dalia Lau and narrator Yossi Banai in an evening of flamenco based on Lorca's lament for a bull fighter.

WEST GERMAN playwright, Franz Xaver Kroetz, the poetic, acrid depicor of the yawn and desolation of the lower classes, will be a guest of the festival, and three of his works will be produced. One is *Through the Leaves*, to be presented in English by Mabou Mines, one of the leading avant-garde troupes in the U.S. Habimah will present *The Farm* in Hebrew, directed by Nola

Chilton; and the Library Theatre of Ramat Gan will bring its production, also in Hebrew, of *Enough, Man!* directed by Yoram Falk, to Jerusalem.

Except for English, all foreign-language productions will have simultaneous translation into Hebrew, and low-cost Hebrew translations of the plays will be available with the programmes, which this year are free.

To drop a few other names: Ekkehard Schall, of the Berliner Ensemble in East Germany, leading interpreter of Brecht, is coming with two one-man programmes, postponed from last year. The Wisdom Bridge Theatre of Chicago is doing a Kabuki version of Euripides's *Medea*. The Basel Ballet will present a full production of *Giselle*, with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra; the Sadlers' Wells Royal Ballet will do *Swan Lake*, with the Israel Sinfonietta.

Other well-known visitors will be Guarneri String Quartet, Il Nuovo Quartetto, the Chick Corea Elektric Band and the Larry Coryell Trio, Meredith Monk.

MOST OF THE 50 productions will be in Jerusalem, for the first time concentrated in the newly-enlarged Jerusalem Theatre complex. But there will be five concert programmes, with multiple performances, at the Dormition Abbey, and *David in the Lion's Den*, a 12th-century musical drama, will be presented by the Ensemble for Early Music (U.S.) at David's Tower in the Old City.

The argument about the festival's location is renewed each time planning begins. For reasons of politics and atmosphere, most of it has recently been in Jerusalem, much to the disgruntlement of some Tel Avivians, who can barely find the backwater on their maps.

This year, a large number of performances will be in Tel Aviv, though some of them are not advertised as part of the festival. These are mainly the imports of independent impresarios such as Yehuda Talit, Pinhas Postel and Shmuel Tzemaeh, who are covering or sharing production costs. Others are co-productions between Habimah or Cameri and visiting groups.

The co-productions made it possible to keep the budget at \$770,000, lower than in the past, according to festival manager Yishai Azarazi. About half the budget will come from box-office sales. The Jerusalem Foundation has mobilized sizeable sums, and other funds come from government and municipal sources. Foreign embassies and cultural centres are defraying the expenses of groups from their respective countries.

The budget takes into account a debt of \$600,000 from the 1982-85 festivals, and includes a \$30,000 payment to Avital Mossinson for the termination of his contract as artistic director.

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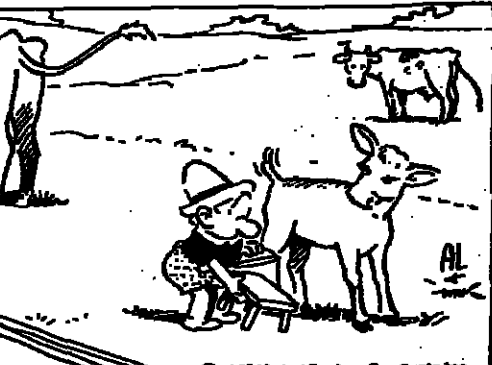
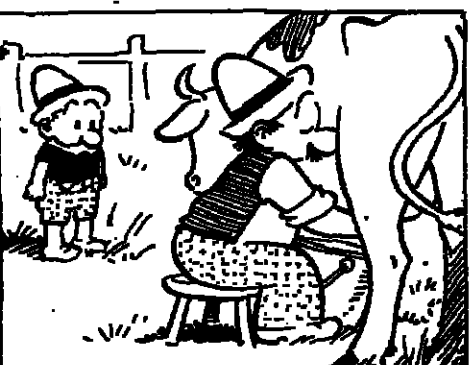
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Facing the 'fascist danger'

AARON LEIBEL

IT CAN HAPPEN here—at least according to Hebrew University political scientist Prof. Ze'ev Sternhell. An authority on fascist movements, Sternhell told *The Jerusalem Post* that "Fascism is a universal phenomenon. No people or country, including Israel, is immune."

The latest, most visible threat to Israeli democracy—the physical violence and shouting down of speakers at the recent Herut Party convention—did not surprise him. He pointed out that the party had employed similar tactics in past electoral campaigns, especially in 1981, and should not wonder when violence comes home to roost.

Conceding that the left had also sometimes used unsavory means in the early days of the state, the professor and Mapam Party activist nevertheless maintained that it is not clear that the level of political violence is higher here than in other democratic societies. "In Europe," he noted, "there have been killings in elections. This has not happened in Israel."

He does not believe that the commitment to democratic ideals is lower here than elsewhere, but he fears the level of commitment to democracy in Israel has been eroded. Attachment to democracy, he explains, is a function of conditions. "When everything is going well, when there is no national, political or economic crisis, democracy en-



Anti-racism demonstrators outside the Knesset. Their banners read "Kach leader MK Meir Kahane equals fascism." (Harari)

joys good health. At times of crisis, whether it is a crisis of a defeat in a war, or a social one like high unemployment or inflation, then it becomes clear that the commitment to democracy is lower than previously thought.

Israel's attachment to democratic values has been lessened first due to economic and social difficulties, Sternhell believes. He also points an accusing finger at the continuing

"occupation" of the West Bank, because of which "Israeli society is getting used to the fact that there are two norms—one for itself and one for someone else. This constitutes a kind of negative education that erodes democratic values."

Sternhell also identifies the growing influence of "the non-democratic, Jewish religious element" as a threat to democracy.

IN LIGHT of those developments, the professor sees a potential fascist threat here. The question is, he maintains, when will a crisis occur that will allow the translation of that ideology into a potent political force.

And the more serious the crisis, the greater the number of potential fascists.

He even foresees the possibility of a fascist movement taking control of the national government, in the event of a grave crisis. But, he notes, if this should happen, it would probably come about from "the exploitation of democracy rather than from a coup d'état." He does not envision a real fascist threat in the short run, but thinks "we may have problems in the next 10 or 15 years."

While Sternhell identifies this potential societal illness, he also prescribes the cure. First, Israel must get rid of the territories. Then, legislation is needed which would turn values like equality and equal rights into social norms. Finally, the professor advocates overhauling the educational system and enlisting it in the fight against fascism.

It is not enough that speakers are sent to schools to tell students that "democracy is a lovely concept." Instead, a new approach is needed. He explains: "We have to attack the problem at the base, at the school's curriculum. If you give the pupil the picture of a tribe fighting constantly against a hostile world, words will not help. If you don't teach the humanities, philosophy and general history—those subjects that give the child universal values and a picture of the world in which he feels himself part of a broad culture, based on freedom and progress—all talk of democracy is worthless."

"The question is: What kind of society does Israel want to become? If we want an open society, we have to educate our children in the humanist tradition, that of the Judeo-Christian and Greek worlds, in the culture of Western civilization."

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JERUSALEM CHURCH OF GOD (

rymoney

לוח הברטון

Dizengoff, 3 1/2, huge, on pillars, front, bargain price! 03-23215.
Nahmani, Tel Aviv, 3, front, 240/38.
Rare bargain! Near Rehov Gula, 3, balcony, 2nd floor, phone, excellent condition, 22,000, must sell! Taveh, call immediately! 08-30-1730, 03-332023, Suburban No. 331.

2 nice rooms, Rehov, \$25,000, Tel. 03-239030.
North, one room flat, roof, 03-227446, from 15.00, Friday-Saturday night.
Rehov Hayarok, 3 room flat, partier, residential/business, 263/63.
2 + roof, 113 Nahalat Binayim, Tel Aviv, 13,000, phone, 03-813747.
Ben Yehuda, 2, excellent condition, phone, 20,000, Rafael David Realty, 03-621127, 03-614898.

Tel Aviv, 3, 3rd floor, no lift, modern kitchen, 03-625010, 03-625038.

Furnished Flats

2 especially luxurious in Migdal David Hamelchil + pool. Kaufman Realty, 03-265484.

2 furnished, phone, immediate, New Shearman, 454486, 475436.

For tourists, beautiful holiday flat, north, short/long periods, 03-235529.

Lovely holiday flat, north, long/short periods, 03-235529.

Near Municipality, 2 1/2, solar boiler, phone, quiet neighbourhood, 03-246511.

Nordus, 2 + phone, 1st floor, 055-22196, EE, work.

Ramat Hatayim, 3 + dinette, phone, 1st floor, furnished, immediate, 03-749683.

We have selection of flats, reasonable cheap prices. Amiri, 03-472759.

Ben Yehuda, Nordus, 3, phone, partier, short/long, 03-495105.

Ben Yehuda, 2, closed balcony, 2nd floor, near, Alef, 03-482502.

North, small one room flat, no kitchen, 03-613413, 03-220368.

Plumet (bathrooms) non-smoker, for 2/3, north, 03-248804.

Short/long term rental, specializing in penthouses and flats, 03-444375, 03-461093.

Tel Aviv, Bnei, 2 1/2, luxurious, phone, immediate, 03-451458, 03-877064.

Tourists! North, 3 1/2, luxurious, air-conditioned, fully furnished, 03-246501.

For tourists, recreation, near sea, 3 modern, 936278, 61371.

Cottage, Neot Afeka, seeking flatmate, full privacy, adjacent conveniences, work, 371553, home, 495749.

Exclusive penthouse, Ramat Aviv, wonderful view, complete privacy, 03-410861.

Maoz Aviv, 3, phone, 2nd floor, 48751, 48279.

Neot Afeka, 4, roof, complete, very luxurious, long term, Canadian international, 490163.

North, 3, luxurious, long term, 280, Canadian international, 286222.

North, near Kikar Azaria, 2 1/2, large, fully furnished, 1st floor, 03-233731.

North, 3, partially furnished, \$300, 03-433937, 03-256141.

One room flat, ground floor, near municipality, 6 months, 160, 03-395086.

Tourists - seaside flat, wonderful for holidays, short term, 03-741208, 03-783476.

Tourists only! Furnished flat + phone for several weeks, 03-233556.

Furnished Rooms

Hotel, Dizengoff Square, furnished rooms from \$300 monthly, 03-261651.

Furnished room in flat, for man, Yael Eliyahu, 397603, from Sunday.

Residence for suitable in elderly man's flat, in exchange for housekeeping, 03-663708.

Room near Dizengoff Centre, partially furnished, 03-751915.

Flats Wanted

4-5 room flat required, luxurious, lift, north Tel Aviv, 263063.

Interested in 2-2 1/2 room flat, north Tel Aviv, 263063.

North Tel Aviv, required for purchase, 3, front, on pillars, phone, 03-478786, no agent's fee.

Seeking top-notch broker, assistant to director and businessman, for help in planning projects, part time possible. Send full c.v. stating experience to POB 2730, Ramat Gan.

Seeking 1-2 room flat, north Tel Aviv, purchase, near sea, 231332.

Our clients need villas, also tourists, 03-299772.

Seeking 1-1 1/2 room flat for cash purchase, Tel Aviv, Ramat Gan, Givatayim, 03-457962.

Seeking flat for monthly rent, 4 rooms, long term, lift, phone, near Kikar Hamadina, Keret, 03-285774.

Urgent! Embassy requires luxurious villa flat, for rent, Canadian international, 286222.

Holon Bat Yam

Flats for Sale

Bat Yam, Shapira, 3, well arranged, solar boiler, occupancy 6/87, 03-577071.

Holon, Dov Hoz, 3, dinette, 3rd floor; Bat Yam, 3, dinette, 4th floor; lift, phone, 594841.

Bargain, Holon, 3, dinette, 4th floor, front, pretty, 872434.

2 + 1/2 ROOMS

Bat Yam, 2 1/2, 1st floor, on pillars, improved, large kitchen, 03-540077.

Lovely, Sharet, Bat Yam, 2 1/2, 1st floor on pillars, solar boiler, 03-540077.

Special phone number for placing ads in newspaper, 885885, multi-line (On Advertising).

Bat Yam, Bat Yam, 2, 4th floor, solar boiler, 03-5517956, 03-847346.

Bargain, Bat Yam, 2, central, quiet location, 03-881252.

Bat Yam, 2, large balcony, 03-5512350, 03-376728, not Shabbat.

3 + 1/2 ROOMS

Special phone number for placing ads in newspaper, 885885, multi-line (On Advertising).

Bat Yam, 3, 4th floor, no lift, 378181, 558320.

Special phone number for placing ads in newspaper, 885885, multi-line (On Advertising).

Bargain, 3 1/2, 4th floor, no lift, well arranged, flexible occupancy, 03-5511279.

Haportzim, Holon, 3, 1st floor, immediate occupancy, Ofakim, 03-299772.

Holon, 3, Rehov Tamah, 3rd floor, modernized, \$48,000, 848581.

Neot Shoshanim, 3, dinette, balcony, solar boiler, 3rd floor, corner, 03-892301.

Bargain, 3, Kiryat Sharet, new kitchen, solar boiler, additions, 805088.

Central Holon, 3 1/2, cupboards, marble floor, 76,000, 881281.

Holon Bat Yam

Holon centre, 3 rooms, lift, plaidet, airconditioner, solar boiler, luxurious kitchen, \$59,000, 859187.

Special phone number for placing ads in newspaper, 885885, multi-line (On Advertising).

3 + hall, spacious, central and beautiful, 1st floor, flexible availability, 03-837862.

2 nice rooms, Rehov, \$25,000, Tel. 03-239030.

North, one room flat, roof, 03-227446, from 15.00, Friday-Saturday night.

Rehov Hayarok, 3 room flat, partier, residential/business, 263/63.

2 + roof, 113 Nahalat Binayim, Tel Aviv, 13,000, phone, 03-813747.

Ben Yehuda, 2, excellent condition, phone, 20,000, Rafael David Realty, 03-621127, 03-614898.

Tel Aviv, 3, 3rd floor, no lift, modern kitchen, 03-625010, 03-625038.

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Near Municipality, 2 1/2, solar boiler, phone, quiet neighbourhood, 03-246511.

Nordus, 2 + phone, 1st floor, 055-22196, EE, work.

Ramat Hatayim, 3 + dinette, phone, 1st floor, furnished, immediate, 03-749683.

We have selection of flats, reasonable cheap prices. Amiri, 03-472759.

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Ben Yehuda, 2, closed balcony, 2nd floor, near, Alef, 03-482502.

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Short/long term rental, specializing in penthouses and flats, 03-444375, 03-461093.

Tel Aviv, Bnei, 2 1/2, luxurious, phone, immediate, 03-451458, 03-877064.

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Cottage, Neot Afeka, seeking flatmate, full privacy, adjacent conveniences, work, 371553, home, 495749.

Exclusive penthouse, Ramat Aviv, wonderful view, complete privacy, 03-410861.

Maoz Aviv, 3, phone, 2nd floor, 48751, 48279.

Neot Afeka, 4, roof, complete, very luxurious, long term, Canadian international, 490163.

North, 3, luxurious, long term, 280, Canadian international, 286222.

North, near Kikar Azaria, 2 1/2, large, fully furnished, 1st floor, 03-233731.

North, 3, partially furnished, \$300, 03-433937, 03-256141.

One room flat, ground floor, near municipality, 6 months, 160, 03-395086.

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Tourists only! Furnished flat + phone for several weeks, 03-233556.

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Residence for suitable in elderly man's flat, in exchange for housekeeping, 03-663708.

Room near Dizengoff Centre, partially furnished, 03-751915.

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4-5 room flat required, luxurious, lift, north Tel Aviv, 263063.

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Ma'ariv

הלוואה

THE JERUSALEM POST

Young women required for light packing work. 812654.

Advertising agents with proven experience for hard and well-paid work. 03-622704.

Advertising agent. The road to high earnings is through us. 03-622704.

Advertising agent. Want to forget stress? It's worth it to come to us. 03-622704.

Carpenter for veneer and formica work. 03-622704.

Counselor for special work, preferably social worker, psychologist or education. Apply to POB 4688, Haifa, for position 643.

Elisa hospital, Haifa, seeks certified X-Ray technician. Apply in writing to: X-Ray Center, POB 6518, Haifa 31064, or call 04-389121.

Transportation department driver, after army. 03-280151, Abaron.

Accommodation for girl in North Tel Aviv flat in exchange for care and salary. 03-219772.

Adapt assembly workers for paper and metal accessories; operators for press and machines producing metal accessories. Ramat Hasharon, 5 days weekly, salary premium. 03-483151-2-3.

Company organizing events requires experienced person. 03-917169, from Sunday.

Diesel truck garage requires experienced mechanics and apprentice. 03-78623.

English typist, mother tongue English, full-time. 03-644433.

Experienced graphic artist, post-graduate. Hagit Hershkov, 03-751099.

Factory in Be'er Sheva requires experienced plastic machine hydraulic and pneumatic maintenance person. 03-782286.

IBM typewriter or excellent typist, interesting work. 03-686655.

Lawyer, 2 years experience in civil commercial field. 03-268447, 267864.

Mauzer Exclusive requires energetic, industrious sales agent with staying power, for central region, excellent conditions and high prices. 03-813025, 03-822173, 03-960030.

NIS 20 per hour for car-mechanics. Beit Shai, 11 Jabotinsky, Ramat Gan.

NIS 80 per evening! Special for Passover, young people. Eshkol, 4 Hanegev (Central Bus Station).

National company requires salesperson for Jerusalem area, interesting varied work. Apply with hand-written curriculum vitae. POB 3546, Jerusalem, for salesperson.

Night shift, midnight to morning, preparing orders for milk products in refrigeration room. 03-61491, 03-912965, Yigal, from Sunday.

Office institute requires maintenance, possibly beginning. 03-71371, 372522.

Paper factory requires pensioner with technical background, regular work. Be'er Sheva, 13 Beit Yehuda (near Coca Cola), mornings.

Seeking pastry chef/assistant, good conditions, weekdays. 03-241616.

Seeking staff of Chinese chefs and waiters to run new restaurant. North Tel Aviv, 03-282977.

Seeking worker (knowledge desired) for light fiberglass and polyester work. 03-440066.

Seeking auto mechanic after army service. 03-55557.

Seeking chef, minimum 3 years experience. 03-27049, Yosef.

Space-sellers, do you have ideas the boss doesn't want to hear? Come to us. 03-622704.

Space-sellers, we don't have any pre-madonnas, just professionals. 03-622704.

Space-sellers, we promise hard work and lots of money. 03-622704.

Special telephone number for placing newspaper advertisements, 888583, multi-line (Psimon On).

Supervisors Ltd., company bookkeeping office, Petah Tikva, seeks cleaning women, 3 afternoon hours, 15.00-18.00 (Friday mornings), NIS 3 per hour hourly work, call Sunday 6.48 from 08.00-10.00, 03-926430, 03-926461.

Supervisor, 57 Rehov Aronovitz, Tel Aviv, requires: vegetable department worker; dairy department supervisor. Contact branch manager.

Your life ticket to the world of photography, film modeling. 03-238853.

Credit card owners can dial 03-383904 to place ads in the Luah Batshai and will receive a free 3-D poster. Zahir Advertising, 30 Tel-Aviv, Tel Aviv.

Dynamic agent required for toys, car, motor, 04-32488, evenings.

Experienced kitchen operator for bookkeeping, part-time. 03-45008.

Experienced dental assistant, Holon. 03-64511, immediate.

Food factory requires maintenance worker. Please apply in handwriting. POB 371, Tel Aviv, 61003.

Preference to moped owners or moped license holders for extermination job. 03-490936.

Printing press requires printers, for A2 and A4 sheets, 03-717663.

Salesperson for pastry shop, Be'er Sheva, Ramat Gan, good conditions. 03-704633.

Salesperson for office equipment, POB 1832, Ramat Gan, 52323.

Technical storehouse clerk, experienced in electronic components. Apply from Sunday, 03-611521.

Agent for food products, with Gimmel driver's license. 03-316819.

Bar Yim sewing workshop requires experienced machinists, high pay. 03-865490.

Cleaning worker for Merkaz Yehoshua school, Shoham, Haifa, 13.00-15.00, 03-546137.

Cost-effective printer, full time. 03-282132, 03-280942.

Good carpenter required, fair conditions for suitable. 03-833961, 03-451718, Saturday also.

High-tech industry, quality assurance field, seeking quality controller, army-level experience on electronic and electro-mechanical components. Astronics, 03-784212, or in writing, POB 82C, Be'er Sheva 51261.

Metapet, 9 hours, 5 days. Ramat Gan, 03-388764, Marianne.

Licensed health club requires professional/appraiser/independent massmen. 03-220771.

Manager to establish marketing company for food factories in Tel Aviv area. Detail capabilities in handwriting. POB 3868, Haifa 31037.

Phone interviewers, command of Hebrew + English, temporary work, your own hours. 03-256992.

Practical engineer + machines, drafting and development knowledge, immediate work, long term. good conditions. Tighur, 03-278741.

Required: gardener for work in Ashdod + assistant gardener, pensioner, for in Ramat Aviv. Also pensioners for gardening work in gardens in Holon. 03-310895, 03-91112.

Seeking workers for organization and pre-election activities. 03-611245.

Shoshon branch requires salesperson, cashiers, convenient hours, full/part time, good terms for suitable. Apply to branch manager, 72 Weizmann, Kfar Sava, 03-31419.

Workers for packing house in Bat Yam or Holon, NIS 12 netto per day. 03-961932.

ACCOUNTANTS

Accepting work in computer mechanical bookkeeping, balances, references, rapid, reliable service. 03-280933.

Accountant! Annual reports, income tax, VAT, arrears liquidation! free advice! 03-246501.

Assistant bookkeeper required for advertising office, part time. POB 11333, Tel Aviv.

Bookkeeping office receives arrears liquidation and reports, rapid, reasonable prices! 03-370922.

Computer keyboard operator + experience, for work in bookkeeping, from 14.00, 03-63866.

Experienced accountant receives tax work. 03-723418, 03-730633, Tel Aviv.

Full time bookkeeper required, Tel Aviv. 03-254361.

Seeking experienced bookkeeper, part time. 03-812329.

Tax adviser! Specialists and beginners to help with bookkeeping. 03-725980, 03-732418.

Large company, fashion field, requires bookkeeper grade 3, experience in dealing with clients, computers. 03-60121.

Accountant's office requires bookkeeper, experience an advantage. 03-29160.

Experienced IBM computer keypunch operator, (preferably Hasharon/Be'er Sheva), good conditions. 03-285189, 03-451520.

Independent bookkeeper required, retired, half time, 5 days weekly, Bat Yam industrial area. 5512289, 516621, 5511541.

Marketing company in Petah Tikva requires full-time bookkeeper, part time. 03-747791.

Accountant's office requires experienced accountant controller, advanced training possible. 03-280752.

Seeking Philips computer operator. 03-611146, Boaz.

CLERKS

Clerk for clinic, gentle and polite. English and Hebrew speaker. 03-449888.

Experienced typewriter operators for immediate, temporary, hourly work. Tighur, 03-282778.

Fast Hebrew and Hebrew/English typists required. 03-410181.

Finance company requires clerk-typist on National machine. 03-821157, 03-824843.

Importing company in Tel Aviv requires English typist, mother tongue English, shorthand advantage, working hours, Sunday-Thursdays, 08.00-16.00, Friday 08.00-13.00, 03-218186 (Nina).

Kiryat Arye, Petah Tikva, import company, seeking experienced keypunch operator, English mandatory. 08.00-16.00, 03-923022.

Lawyer's office requires experienced medical clerk-typist. 03-287723, 03-223022.

Our northern office requires clerk-secretary, high school graduate, Hebrew + English typing mandatory, tele and English know-how preferred. 03-455126, 03-16-00.

Rishon LeZion factory requires reliable clerk, phone and general office work. 03-70160. Detailed handwriting + POB 2236, Tel Aviv.

Young women required for hourly office work. Tel Aviv, 493333.

Commercial company, central Tel Aviv, requires: experienced secretary-typist, at least 5 years experience, 5 days weekly, 03-663031.

Clerk required to present accounts + Hebrew typing. 03-810367, from Sunday.

Marketing office requires secretary, mother tongue English, excellent Hebrew, typing in both, 5 days, 30 hours. 03-45114.

New Exchange, clerk, typing, basic bookkeeping, 5 days, 08.00-16.00, 03-735347.

Ramada Hotel requires English secretary for sales department + typing. 03-296444, personal.

Reception clerk, telephone, good English, 14.00-19.00, 03-261173, Cyril.

Secretary for Netanyahu office, full command of English, typing, working knowledge of Hebrew, administrative skills, full time, 5 days week, Import Company, POB 1122, Netanyahu 42110.

Sales secretary, 5 hours daily, fluent English. 03-494450.

Accountant's office requires secretary, computer operation experience desirable. 03-280752.

American Embassy requires voucher clerk. Requirements: aptitude for B-grade, some accounting experience, English typing and good knowledge of Hebrew. Call 03-654338, ext. 304, from Monday.

Computer company requires secretary, fluent English, includes typing and drafting, native English speaker, excellent conditions. 03-425114.

Half time independent secretary, Hebrew-English typing and editing. 03-789798.

Psychology institute, Ramat Aviv, requires experienced secretary, Hebrew-English typing, English knowledge. 03-236003.

Insurance agent, secretary/clerk, serious, insurance experience. 03-613123.

Large Petah Tikva factory requires clerk, Hebrew/English, from 11.30-15.30, call 03-913191, Raya.

South Tel Aviv factory requires secretary, bookkeeping experience. 03-866228.

English (native speaker) secretary, typing skills, long term immediate work, good conditions. Tighur, 03-240389.

Experienced secretary, 12 years schooling, English, 08.00-14.00, POB 1268, Tel Aviv 61012.

Experienced typist only, Hebrew and/or English, for immediate hourly work. Tighur, 03-282274.

Keyboard and word-processor operators (all terminals), for immediate hourly work. Tighur, 03-282274.

Lawyer's office, Tel Aviv, requires clerk, secretary-typist, 08.30-13.00, 03-625133.

Insurance agency, messenger + office work. 03-242222, from Sunday, 16.00.

Seeking: 1. experienced secretary with initiative, talented, good Hebrew/English typing; 2. secretarial assistant, working in advertising agency, Tel Aviv, 08.00-16.30, 03-253567.

DIAMONDS

Good scratchmen workers for round stones and fantasy, good conditions. 7518108.

Upper crosswork cutler, upper ball, diamond for good stones. 7511340.

DOMESTIC HELP

Herzliya Pithul, serious metapet required, live-in possible, references. 03-70123.

Herzliya, Naveh Amir, housekeeper required from now to June 15th, 2 adults only, little English speaking, excellent conditions. With references, apply in handwriting to POB 2000, Tel Aviv 61200, for 322.

In Boston, U.S.A., metapet required for year old boy, live-in, excellent conditions, work begins August 86, for year, include photograph and references. Buchenholz, 82 Broken Tree Road, Newton MA 02159.

Pleasant and neat adult, fluent English, for two, live-in or not, Naveh Amir, Herzliya. 03-551794, 03-287624, Dalia.

Ramat Hasharon, experienced metapet + references for baby and child, 48570, evenings.

Ramat Hasharon, young woman (preferably from kibbutz) for cleaning and care for boy (11) + cooking, live-in, references. 03-426061.

Furnished room, north Tel Aviv + room and board for young woman in return for cleaning, cooking. 03-24362, 03-30-13-00, 03-30-13-00.

Givatayim, Borochov, dedicated housekeeper 3-4 days. 03-758157.

Herzliya Pithul, responsible woman required + live-in for care of children + housework. 03-70083.

Housekeeper needed every day. Call 03-781811.

Immediate Assistant to kindergarten teacher/metapet, experienced. 03-470867.

Kfar Shmaryahu, woman for housework + live-in, references. 03-704277, afternoons.

North Tel Aviv, metapet/clerk-housekeeper, 3 1/2 year old twin, live-in, 03-243557.

North Tel Aviv, metapet, 12.30-20.00, references. 03-428510.

Ramat Gan, Shlomo Valdim, seeking domestic, twice weekly, 79905, afternoons.

Ramat Hasharon, domestic, 4 hours per day, all week. 03-818117.

Savona, serious, for housework, 3 days weekly. 03-347593, afternoons and evenings.

Seeking young woman as housekeeper + care for 2 year old boy. 03-67327, 11.00-16.30.

Yiddish-speaking attendant, over 50, as live-in housekeeper + supervision of self-reliant disabled woman (03-79732), evening.

Domestic, live-in, possibly 2 free days per week. 03-730405.

Herzliya Pithul, domestic required + live-in, for cleaning and cooking. 03-78776.

Ramat Elal, woman required for housekeeping, live-in possible. 03-344034.

Ramat Gan, responsible metapet/clerk, possibly live-in. 03-738484.

Ramat Gan, metapet, 4 hours, 766943, 741215, not Shabbat.

Seek live-in care for one year old boy, excellent working conditions. Boston, Mass August 1986, one year, 24 hours, photo, Buchenholz, 81 Broken Tree Road, Newton, MA 02159.

Starau pair agency, offers metapets, foreign domestics. 03-655150.

Givatayim, office cleaner required. 03-779127, Zohava.

Metapet required for children + cleaning, live-in + food. 03-823434.

Ramat Aviv, worker required for monthly basis + references to care for infant and receiving children from school. 427573.

Kfar Shmaryahu, seeking live-in housekeeper. 03-728997.

Seeking domestic for housework, twice weekly, Givatayim. 03-741208.

Seeking live-in domestic, Savona, excellent conditions. 03-341631, 03-34319.

Seeking live-in domestic, references essential, good conditions. 03-41589.

Seeking live-in housekeeper. 03-35792.

American Embassy requires voucher clerk. Requirements: aptitude for B-grade, some accounting experience, English typing and good knowledge of Hebrew. Call 03-654338, ext. 304, from Monday.

Computer company requires secretary, fluent English, includes typing and drafting, native English speaker, excellent conditions. 03-425114.

Half time independent secretary, Hebrew-English typing and editing. 03-789798.

Psychology institute, Ramat Aviv, requires experienced secretary, Hebrew-English typing, English knowledge. 03-236003.

Expert for sewing machine repairs, know-how, experience in electricity + electronics, high salary. 03-293130.

Plastic production company seeks experienced independent operator. 03-817479.

Service-repair technician required for commercial dishwashers and heaters. 03-200451-2, Moshe.

Available, established optometrist shop, north Tel Aviv, Palom Ltd. (Malden), 03-244625.

Bargain! Rishon LeZion, metal sell, excellent minimalist. 03-955023, 03-957996.

Campaign! Credit up to 80 days, without interest! Seeking for 3000000! Psimon On, 08.00-20.00, also with credit cards.

Collection of debts, speedy and expert (court-legal), 03-900172, 03-91518, 03-91519.

Entrepreneur, new business ideas and marketing and advertising promotion. 03-540638.

Excellent income! Entire Hachshovera, popular item. NIS 18.00, 03-703126.

For rentable, garage/metalwork shop, opposite Masav building, immediate. 03-743880.

For sale, established furniture factory including cupboards, storehouses, 300,000, 03-961189.

For sale, Philips calculator P-330, 621356, 622155.

Habima Theatre office house seeking partner. 26487, 622101.

Key money, commercial, 200sq.m., De-Red Yaffo, Tel Aviv opposite Romano building, all purpose. 03-686169, 03-73474, evenings.

Levinsoy, 50sq.m. hall, all purpose, monthly rent, 03-461200, 03-621989.

Need an office in Tel Aviv? Tel Service will be your office. Telephone and secretarial services. 03-332022.

Office furniture and gift shop, Tel Aviv city centre (retail shop) available for family reasons. 03-661343.

Pastor shop equipment, refrigerators, air-conditioner, mixer, roller, etc. 03-47962.

Place your newspaper advertisement with work with credit cards. Visa, Mastercard, Discover (03-271118, 03-271117, open continuously from 07.00, Psimon local).

Rental, part of industrial building, NIS 4700, approximately 200sq.m., 03-954478, 03-478842, evenings.

Renting or selling? In business? We're the experts. 03-249956.

Well-known jewelry shop, Tel Aviv centre, Palom Ltd. (Malden), 03-246625.

For discotheque! Complete lighting and amplification equipment for rent. 03-749877.

For discotheque! Lighting, amplification, complete, for rental. 03-719871.

Food and beverage department requires active person. 300.000, 03-614179.

Kanafovit is opening flying courses for small plane, popular prices, registration from 30.3 at landing ground near Moshav Hagor (Kishit Rosh Hayim), 03-974922, 03-94448, 03-91765. Theory course begins 13.4 at 19.00.

Rental, green room for taxi, convenient terms. 03-715528.

Special phone number for placing ads in newspaper. 888583, multi-line (On Advertising).

Sweets factory requires partner with knowledge of sweets production. POB 177, 03-118, Haifa.

Cash for bank guarantees. 03-652957, 03-612933.

Central Rishon LeZion, optician's shop, key money, extensive reputation, modern equipment. 03-943377, 03-947921.

Credit card owners can dial 03-383904 to place ads in the Luah Batshai and will receive a free 3-D poster. Zahir Advertising, 30 Tel-Aviv, Tel Aviv.

Mainmarket available for monthly rent. 03-90368.

Seeking farm 1000 dunams. 03-233976, 03-232233.

Working dental clinic, Sharon area, for sale, installments. 03-551466.

Due to departure, bargain, spacious handbag workshop. 03-225819, 03-299988, 03-664783.

Factory with reputation, jewelry design field, production, export, seeking active partner willing to invest \$300,000. Please write to POB 26450, Ramat Gan 61263.

Michraim, national and international trends for all branches. Careful! Michraim, 20 years at the same place, 7 Derech Pithul Tikva 03-61292.

Rental, Bat Yam centre, hall + kindergarten licence. 03-2621, 872360.

Rental, unoccupied dental clinic, Be'er Sheva. 03-790178.

Seeking partner for plot owner to build 6 flats + 3 penthouses. 03-435378.

Siemens company representative accepting offers for training in Germany, from companies and private engineers, also training programmes German engineers in various advanced technology fields in Israel. Acceptance of technological projects and export programmes, for meeting between German and Swiss investment companies and bank representatives, and Israeli representatives, will take place in Tel Aviv, early June. To arrange meeting until April 15, 03-23754, 15.00-17.00.

Loans

Loans with your car or bank guarantee as collateral. 03-33782-3-4, 04-641478.

For self-employed and companies, commercial cheque discounting by Lieberman + Ben-Zvi offering loans against guarantees for permanent salaried workers, good terms. 03-876769.

Offering financing at convenient interest rate also linked against bank guarantees. 03-425263, 03-652957.

Seeking money against bank guarantee. 03-652957, 03-612933.

Halls

Central Bus Station, hall, key money, 65sq.m. + power + phone. 03-371776.

Neot Afeka, monthly rental, equipped kindergarten, complete. 03-482592.

Tramcar Habira, French Hill, complete, about 500sq.m., suitable for mini-market + 2 shops, 400sq.m. area, exposures, available immediately, also for rental. Gad, 4 Shoham, Haifa, 03-227775, 03-223840.

Available, established optometrist shop, north Tel Aviv, Palom Ltd. (Malden), 03-244625.

Bargain! Rishon LeZion, metal sell, excellent minimalist. 03-955023, 03-957996.

Campaign! Credit up to 80 days, without interest! Seeking for 3000000! Psimon On, 08.00-20.00, also with credit cards.

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For sale, Philips calculator P-330, 621356, 622155.

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Office furniture and gift shop, Tel Aviv city centre (retail shop) available for family reasons. 03-661343.

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FEATURES

Soviet actions set off echo of 'never again'

Afghanistan defies wholesale slaughter

JANICE PRAGER

THE LITTLE BOY with no fingers stared at me, without expression. He was like many others I had seen - kids missing feet, hands, arms - and I realized they were as much a part of the Afghan landscape today as the mountains of the Khyber Pass have always been.

The boy continued to stare expecting nothing, knowing that I could not feel the pain of his missing fingers. It hit me after barely a week visiting refugee camps that I, too, had come to expect such tragedy as normal, as commonplace. That realization sent a shiver down my spine.

Though I am a Jew who has spent her life learning the lessons of the Holocaust, I came to realize that empathy with others' suffering is not automatic, even for Jews. I now had to reach beyond the limits of my complacency if I was truly to understand the pain of others. That is what this little boy, and so many others like him, taught me.

The Afghan people today are the victims of a "genocide in progress," perhaps not on the scale of what the Nazis did to the Jews, perhaps not yet.

According to the Helsinki Watch, the committee formed in 1979 to promote compliance with the human rights provisions of the 1975 Helsinki accords, approximately one million people have been killed in Afghanistan since Soviet forces invaded in December 1979. It is also estimated that tens of thousands of people have been imprisoned under horrible conditions and subjected to unspeakable tortures.

Helsinki Watch also reports that there are four to five million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran. This represents one-quarter to one-third of Afghanistan's pre-war population. This is the largest refugee exodus since the end of World War II.

THE SOVIETS had assumed that a full scale invasion and wholesale slaughter of civilians would speedily subdue the Afghan people. This assumption has turned out wrong thanks to the Mujahadeen, the freedom fighters whose greatest strength, along with their great determination and courage, is that they are inextricably linked to the civilian population.

At the beginning of the Soviet occupation, Afghan government troops numbered 100,000. Within three months, massive desertions reduced the Afghan army to approximately 30,000 troops.

"We don't have enough shoes for all the defectors," Abdul Haq, one

of the most highly regarded of the resistance leaders, said. He was referring to the fact that government army commanders often take their conscripts' boots away at night, hoping to forestall defections.

This only highlights the near total lack of support among Afghans for the Soviet occupation forces. It has correctly been said that every village in Afghanistan has declared its own war against the Russians. This widespread popular resistance dictates that, by its very nature, the war is not one between two armies, but rather between one army - the Red Army - and an entire population.

If six years of merciless war demonstrate anything about Soviet capabilities in Afghanistan, it is that Moscow cannot pacify, cannot govern, cannot even administer. All it can do is destroy - something the Soviets have learned to do with an efficiency and with an eye for detail not often seen since the Nazi occupation of Eastern Europe.

Hundreds, probably even thousands, of villages have been carpet-bombed into oblivion and the survivors driven into exile. Towns that witnessed the passing of Alexander the Great, Tamerlane and Babur and his Moguls - towns whose streets were the playgrounds of generation after generation of Afghan children - have simply ceased to exist, their 2,000 year-long legacy snuffed out in five minutes of fire and death from the skies.

IN THE END, it all comes down to individual stories. Tora, an 11-year-old girl who survived a massacre by hiding under bed covers, described to Jeri Laber and Barnett Rubin of Helsinki Watch how Soviet soldiers herded women and children into a room, lobbed grenades through the window and bayoneted the survivors.

Diane Price, an American registered nurse who volunteered to work with the International Medical Corps in clinics in Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province, retells some of the accounts that she heard from her patients. She was told how the Soviets had abducted Afghan women, and put them on helicopters where they were "raped by numerous men and then thrown out."

Additionally, she told of children burned in front of their parents with kerosene and pregnant women bayoneted in the stomach.

One can read the testimonies of many who have witnessed such atrocities: people being thrown alive out of airplanes, live children being put



Afghan rebels show off their latest conquest, a Soviet tank.

under tanks and run over, villagers cut into pieces while alive and others tied and piled together like pieces of wood then drenched in gasoline and burned alive.

Even accounting for possible exaggeration, the testimonies are so consistently horrible, the suffering of survivors so evident, that one cannot doubt that serious crimes against humanity are being committed in that far away country.

Far away perhaps. But the scale of the tragedy was brought home to me when I visited several unregistered Afghan refugee camps. I saw tens of

thousands of refugees who lived at the ubiquitous transit camps in Sada, at the Pakistani border. The one image that I will never forget was the scanty piece of sheer material spread across two sticks and called a tent.

The night I visited these camps I slept one kilometre away at a medical training centre sleeping in an army tent wearing an army jacket under a down blanket and, yet, I was constantly awakened by cold, heavy winds which almost toppled the tent.

I saw women who had just lost their husbands and brothers are, and

who in many cases had just lost one or more of their children, spending their entire days collecting water. I constantly saw the new and tragic symbol of the Afghan people, especially of the children - seemingly healthy people missing toes, fingers, arms or legs.

AND I HEARD their stories. One man described Soviet jets and helicopters carpet-bombing villages, destroying homes and crops and indiscriminately killing innocent civilians. Often even the bombing has not been enough to force the proud Afghans to abandon their homes.

"They are able to empty the villages only by burning all the crops, killing all the cattle and destroying the food," resistance group leader Ahmed Shad Massoud said. He added that this includes poisoning the water supply, ruining centuries-old irrigation systems and planning attacks at harvest time to cause the greatest disruption of the food supply.

"College, high school and even primary school students have been sent to the Soviet Union by the thousands for a variety of reasons. Many are taken against their parents' wishes," writes Laber and Rubin of Helsinki Watch. In order to ensure complete domination over the hardy Afghan nation, the Soviets are conducting a campaign of not only physically depopulating the countryside but of committing cultural genocide.

Today, there is only one official party allowed and that is the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. All publications, including literature, are subjected to complete censorship. Newspapers and magazines are all under government control. University curricula require the study of the Russian language, Russian history and Marxist-Leninist philosophy.

The Soviets have kidnapped a nation. One-quarter to one-third of the Afghan people have gone into exile, one million have died, tens of thousands have been imprisoned without a trial and the rest are internally displaced, terrorized and subjugated to totalitarianism.

The peasant admits to having known the fate of these Jews. Mr. Lanzmann asks whether it bothered him. The peasant replies, "Does it hurt you when I cut my finger?" At this point there is a spontaneous groan of disgust from the audience. Is the audience reacting to him or to his honesty?

Of course, there is something quite reprehensible about a man with a front row seat at a holocaust having such a cold response. But are those of us who have last row balcony seats to a mere genocide fundamentally very different than this Polish peasant?

There is another scene in Lanzmann's film which helps shed some light on human nature. Lanzmann interviews the wife of a former Nazi official who also lived close to a concentration camp. He asks her, "How many Jews do you think were killed in the camp?" She thinks for a moment and responds "400,000, or

maybe it was 40,000. I don't remember. But I do know that it had a 4 in it."

I realized after seeing *Shoah* that something in our psyche clicks off when we are confronted with such numbers as six million Jews killed by the Nazis or one million Afghans killed since the Soviet occupation. One may comprehend the scale of the horror but it takes an unusually empathic human being to actually understand the pain.

ALL OF US, however, can understand the pain of an individual. For this reason, I want to share one Afghan child's experience. He is Jahan Zeb, an 11-year-old boy I and two other adults were accompanying from Kennedy Airport in New York back to Pakistan.

He had been maimed by one of the thousands upon thousands of camouflaged, plastic mines dropped by the Soviets. The explosives in these mines are just enough to cause a person to lose fingers, toes, hands, feet, hearing and sight.

More often than not, it is Afghan children who are wounded. This forces parents to leave the countryside where there is virtually no medical attention, and go to either the big cities where the Soviets have control or to neighbouring Pakistan or Iran for medical care.

"Almost from the start of the Afghan conflict there have been persistent reports of mines disguised as everyday objects that are likely to appeal to children," states the Helsinki Watch Report. There have been numerous reports describing such "toy bombs" as looking like watches, fountain pens, birds, coins, cigarette lighters and toys such as trucks and dolls.

After Jahan Zeb's village was carpet-bombed by Soviet jets, he ran to the nearest cave as he was instructed to do in such an instance. At the foot of the mountain he picked up what he described as a "nice green butterfly." When he picked it up the bomb exploded tearing three fingers off his left hand and leaving him blind.

This was not the extent of his injuries. He also suffered extensive brain damage, the incident had traumatized him. When the airplane took off, the sound of the revving engine triggered a relapse. He began to re-enact the bombing of his village. He felt his fingers glow away and his face contorted as he vividly relived his trauma. Jahan Zeb went to the restroom, stripped himself naked and lay in a fetal position in the corner of the small stall.

When we arrived in Pakistan, we learned that Jahan's father would not be meeting him at the hospital as expected. He had recently gone back to Afghanistan in search of Jahan Zeb's mother, who had not been seen or heard from since the day their village was destroyed.

The writer is the Afghan affairs consultant to the Simon Wiesenthal Centre.

Unlikely allies deny ties in grapefruit flap

MACABEE DEAN

Looking back on the Great Grapefruit Scam, it's evident that the Citrus Marketing Board and the feminist movement joined in a dastardly plot to advance the causes of both. The board hoped to sell many more grapefruits, and the feminists sought publicity for a controversial movement which has lost much of its power to shock and titillate our sensibilities.

No other logical explanation can be found for the feminists' attacks on the TV advertisement featuring a row of bouncing beauties and providing welcome publicity to both causes.

We called up a prominent member of the Citrus Marketing Board and charged him with collusion. He denied it with a laugh, but then went on to sell fruit - this time the Shamuti orange in Canada and the U.S. (shipments have already left). He pointed out the uniqueness of this orange, described for the first time by Aharon Aharonson, of Nili fame, who noted in his book that the fruit, evidently a mutation, was spotted in a grove near Jaffa in 1856 or 1859.

The feminist we phoned - we don't know her personally - didn't laugh when she denied any plot. She was deadly vehement.

All we can say is that this is no way for a woman, even if she ain't no lady, to talk to a man, even if he ain't no gentleman.

Despite these denials, we were convinced it was a plot. The same method of gaining publicity was used for years in America to turn a dull book into a bestseller. Then sales picked up.

If the feminists were really against other women using their bodies as sexual bait, they should join the Orthodox and fight against mixed bathing on the Tel Aviv beaches this summer. But the feminists would probably be run off the beach by the women there who so carefully planned their beach wardrobe.

Or the feminists could picket the sex shops and pornography movies. Or, if they were really serious, they could put a feminine majority in the next Knesset.

That the alleged plot between the Board and Feminists succeeded can be shown by our own case: we ate our first grapefruit in weeks, and frankly, it was good enough for export.

Wrongful life: judging the void of non-existence

LAW REPORT / Asher Felix Landau

In the Supreme Court sitting as a Court of Civil Appeals before Deputy-President Justice Miriam Ben-Porat, Justice Aharon Barak, Justice Shlomo Levin, Justice Dov Levin, and Justice Eliezer Goldberg, in the matters of Dr. Dina Zeitzov and others, appellants, versus Shaul Katz and others, respondents; and Shaul Katz and others, appellants, versus Dr. Dina Zeitzov and others, respondents (C.A. 518/82, 540/82).

A WOMAN, members of whose family had suffered from Hunter's disease, consulted a geneticist before her marriage to ascertain whether that disease was likely to affect her offspring. She had firmly decided that if such a risk existed, she would not bear children. The geneticist advised that there was no risk and, acting on that advice, the woman bore a son. The child, however, suffered from Hunter's disease, which seriously affected his physical and mental development.

Actions were then instituted in the district court by the child and by his parents against the geneticist and the institutions in which she worked on the basis that she had been negligent in giving the advice referred to, and was therefore liable in damages to both the minor and his parents. The court dismissed the minor's claim *in limine* on the ground that he had no cause of action against the defendants, but it refused to dismiss the claim of the parents. Both parties then appealed to the Supreme Court.

The first judgment of the Supreme Court was given by Justice Miriam Ben-Porat. The district court, she said, had dismissed the minor's claim on two grounds. It had held, firstly, that the court was unable, and was also under no duty, to deal with such a claim, which was the task of the legislature, and secondly, that since it was unthinkable that a minor should have such a claim against his parents, who were the direct cause of the damage done to him, it was highly unjust to permit such a claim against a stranger. Dealing first with the minor's claim, Ben-Porat said the case must be considered at this stage on the assumption that the facts alleged were true. Only if the court held that the law recognized such a claim on the basis of such facts, would the case be returned to the district court to find if the facts were proved.

Ben-Porat then stressed that the child could only be born with his infirmity or not be born at all. His claim, therefore, was - why did you, by your negligence, cause me to

exist? My birth was avoidable, and it was better not to be born at all than to be born with Hunter's disease. The cause of action, therefore, was one known as "wrongful life" and, as was said in an American case, "The reality of the wrongful life concept is that such a plaintiff both exists and suffers due to the negligence of others."

The expression "damage" is defined in section 2 of the Civil Wrongs Ordinance (New Version) as "loss of life, or loss of, or detriment to, any property, comfort, bodily welfare, reputation or other similar loss or detriment." It was necessary, therefore, to compare the minor's situation before the wrong of which he complains, namely, before he was born, with his situation as the result of the defendants' negligence, namely, his living with his disease.

In the opinion of the scholar Professor Tedeschi, Ben-Porat continued, such a comparison was impossible, since it involved the minor "cutting the branch of the tree on which he was sitting." It had also been held in an American precedent: "The infant plaintiff would have us measure the difference between his life with defects against the utter void of non-existence, but it is impossible to make such a determination. This court cannot weigh the value of life with impairment against the non-existence of life itself. By asserting that he should not have been born, the infant plaintiff makes it logically impossible for a court to measure his alleged damage, because of the impossibility of making the comparison required by compensatory remedies."

So, too, in an English case: "To measure loss of expectation of death would require a value judgment where a crucial factor lies altogether outside the range of human knowledge and could only be achieved, if at all, by resorting to the personal beliefs of the judge who has the misfortune to attempt the task. It is difficult in assessing damages is a bad reason for refusing the task, the impossibility of assessing them is a good one."

In another English case, the court said, "How can a court begin to evaluate non-existence, the undiscovered country from whose bow no traveller returns? No comparison is possible and therefore no damage can be established which a court could recognize. This goes to the root of the whole cause of action."

"However," Ben-Porat continued, there were also instances in which the contrary view was taken. Thus, in one case cited it was said,

"It is neither necessary nor just to retreat into meditation on the mysteries of life. We need not be concerned with the fact that had the defendants not been negligent, the plaintiff might not have come into existence at all. The certainty of genetic impairment is no longer a mystery. In addition, a reverent appreciation of life compels recognition that the plaintiff, however impaired she may be, has come into existence as a living person with certain rights (including the right) to recover damages for the pain and suffering to be endured during the limited life span available to such a child and any pecuniary loss resulting from the impaired condition."

THE CRUCIAL question, Ben-Porat said, was whether the damage could be proved, for otherwise there was no cause for action. It was true that the act which gave the minor life was simultaneous with the act which caused his disease, and the question therefore was whether it was possible to hold, in a given case, that life with the disease was worse than no life at all. Ben-Porat then cited decisions of the Supreme Court and talmudic sources dealing with the assessment of damages in cases of death by negligence, and the place of the doctrine of the sanctity of life in that context. Her conclusion was that there was no reason for not comparing life with no existence at all, and that there could be cases, though no doubt very few, in which it could be held that it was better for a person not to have been born at all.

In certain cases it would be commonly accepted that this was so, this being the opinion of "the reasonable man" - a test fully recognized in the law of damages. As an American judge said, "While our society and our legal system unquestionably place the highest value on all human life, we do not think that it is accurate to suggest that this state's public policy establishes - as a matter of law - that under all circumstances 'impaired life' is preferable to 'non-life'... We cannot assert with confidence that in every situation there would be a social consensus that life is preferable to never having been born at all."

The question still remained, the deputy-president continued, whether her conclusion accorded with the desired judicial policy. She was aware of the fact that in most of the American and English cases, the

balance would be struck between non-existence and the principle of the sanctity of life.

The Royal Commission, which preceded the enactment of the Congenital Disabilities Act referred to, said that, "Such a cause of action, if it existed, would place an almost intolerable burden on medical advisers in their socially and morally exacting role. The danger that doctors would be under such subconscious pressures to advise abortions in doubtful cases through fear of an action for damages is, we think, a real one." This argument, too, was unacceptable. The court, of course, would weigh carefully whether the doctor had acted negligently, or was guilty merely of a professional error. There was no reason, however, why a doctor or geneticist, who had been negligent, should not be responsible in the ordinary way for the results of his act.

Another contention was that recognition of the cause of action would impose a duty on the doctor or geneticist comparable to killing the unborn child. That, however, was not so, for the function of the professional man was only to give advice. It was for the parents to decide how to act on that advice, and the advisers bore no responsibility for their decision. The commission thought that recognition of the cause of action was against the public interest, but in her view, the very contrary was true.

It has also been argued that accepting this cause of action would lead to a flood of disability claims involving illegitimacy and bastardy, and groups of persons underprivileged by reason of race or colour. However, there was no connection, said Ben-Porat, between genetic advice and such claims, and the element of racial or colour discrimination had no place in Israeli society.

Ben-Porat then pointed out that her conclusion accorded with sound public policy. Parents often tended to abandon a disabled child and, in any event, in the ordinary course of nature, sometimes died before the child. They may also lack the necessary means to supply the child's needs. In all such cases, the denial of the child's own cause of action would involve grave injustice, leaving him without any support whatever.

THE LAST question which arose, said Ben-Porat, was whether a duty of care was owed to a person who, at the time of the negligent act, had not yet been born or even conceived. The answer was that those to whom damage, as a result of negligence, could be anticipated, included ev-

erybody who could suffer damage within the period that such damage could be caused. Thus it had been said that, "A physician's act, like an arrow shot in air, may foreseeably and reasonably risk injury to someone when it comes to rest," and "Can one doubt that a manufacturer who carelessly prepares baby food is answerable to a child injured thereby even though he made it before birth (or even conception)?" The result was that the geneticist owed a duty of care to the minor, her negligence (as alleged) caused damage which should have been anticipated, and there had therefore been a breach of that duty.

Finally, in regard to the minor's claim, Ben-Porat referred to the judgment of Justice Barak. He agreed, she said, that the minor's claim should be recognized, and had also conceded that the law relating to damages for a civil wrong required the injured party to be placed in the same position as if the wrong had not been committed, *restitutio in integrum*, in the present case, as if the minor had not been born. Thus, to avoid an assessment of damages on that basis, Barak regarded the present case as *sui generis*, and had held that the basis of the damage suffered by the minor should be compensation for his having been born with his disability as against his having been born healthy. In her view, there was no basis for this approach, either in the Civil Wrongs Ordinance, or in the precedents of the courts.

Moreover, damages should not be assessed on an imaginary basis. In the present case, the minor had not been born healthy, and it was artificial to proceed on the basis that he was. It was true that a cause of action should not be denied just because of the difficulties in assessing damage, but at the same time a solution should not be adopted simply because it was convenient and easy to apply. Apart from the strictly legal aspect, but also from the point of view of policy, she could not agree, for assessing damages on an artificial basis was in itself unjust.

In conclusion, Ben-Porat held that there was no particular difficulty with the claim of the parents, such a claim being recognized by the authorities and in most of the precedents of the courts. She proposed, therefore, that the appeal of the minor be allowed, and his case remitted to the district court to find the facts and assess the damages, and that the appeal of the geneticist and the institutions in which she functioned, be dismissed.

(To be continued)

הכדא מן האל

The court and the constitution

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

THE SUPREME Court has performed a constitutional function ever since independence, proving that judicial review does not depend on the existence of a written constitution. The court's many contributions to defining the scope and the limitations of civil liberties are ample proof of this, significantly drawing heavily on judicial decisions of nations with written constitutions, such as the U.S. and West Germany. But in performing its constitutional function, the court is inevitably drawn into controversies with strong political ramifications and ideological overtones.

Justice Minister Moshe Nissim's appeal, at the recent Jerusalem international conference on courts and society, for the justices to refrain from political or ideological pronouncements was, therefore, unrealistic and out of place. Such excursions beyond a purist conception of a neutral law, supposedly reserved to a professional elite and beyond the ken of those not skilled in the craft, are an inevitable part of the judicial process operating in a constitutional dimension.

The question is not whether the court should speak out on the fundamental issues that come before it, framed as legal disputes. Rather, the issue is how it should make its voice heard, and when. In both these aspects of its institutional behaviour, there is considerable room for improvement.

Take, for example, the court's decision permitting Kach and the Progressive List to participate in the last Knesset elections. What guidance did it give the Knesset and the nation in dealing with the constitutional problems, fundamental to a free society, that the case raised? Next to none. The Knesset legislated on the principal issue before the court had even published its opinions (10 months after handing down its decision). The controversy, still in progress, over the proposed law against racism has been waged without reference to the important discussions of the subject by the court, including Justice Menahem Elon's observations, based on religious law and tradition. Dialogue between the court and the Knesset is too often conspicuous by its absence.

INDEED, HOW can there be a fruitful dialogue, when the court speaks with such a multitude of

voices? Instead of an institutional pronouncement, setting forth the consensus of the majority, each justice is more or less in business for himself. The court has yet to find the proper medium for having its say.

In the Kach and Progressive List election appeal, the five justices who participated were unanimous that the two parties must be permitted, under the then existing legal norms, to participate in the Knesset race. But why? Instead of a clear answer, an essential precondition for a rational legislative reaction, there were five separate opinions, covering more than 100 pages, with widely varying views in each.

How will Knesset legislation on the disqualification of political parties be applied the next time around? Will the court read into the law a "probable danger" test, as Justice Aharon Barak's opinion suggests he might be inclined to do? What will be the role of the court, if, to cite a major concern of the court's Deputy President, Justice Miriam Ben-Porat, the Elections Committee approves a subversive or racist list? There is no clear answer, other than the late Justice Sussman's suggestion, after the 1965 decision disqualifying an Arab nationalist party, that the next case would depend on the composition of the future panel of justices.

THE WAY the court pronounces its views by the individual opinions of the justices, the so-called *seriatim* opinions, are part of our legacy from the British, whose judiciary has a constitutional function far more limited than that of its Israeli counter-

part. The American Supreme Court began its history with the same British tradition. In its early years, the American court also published only individual opinions, without an authoritative institutional statement of its consensus.

One of the major changes effected by early U.S. chief justice John Marshall, who institutionalized the constitutional function of the U.S. Supreme Court, was to replace the *seriatim* opinions with the opinion of the court. Of course, individual justices are free to publish dissenting opinions, if they disagree with the result of the court's majority, or separate concurring opinions, if they disagree with its reasoning. Ideally, however, internal pressures keep these to a minimum, particularly in controversies in which the standing and prestige of the court itself are at stake.

Therefore, the opinion of the court in the American system is the product of an institutional process of coalescence, sometimes of negotiation among the court's majority justices. Varying views of individual justices must be taken into account by the author of the opinion of the court, in order to avoid individual statements, which inevitably weaken the force of the court's institutional pronouncement.

The opinion of the court makes the court's decision an institutional act, rather than a collection of opinions of individual justices. The impact of the decision is not simply multiplied. It is raised to a different order of magnitude. With its decision, proclaimed in the name of the highest judicial organ of the state,

Justice at the Old Bailey

there is no doubt where the U.S. court, as an institution, stands.

Under the Israeli constitutional system, however, this doubt is a negative element in the court's stature. There is no need for our Supreme Court to await long-delayed legislative action before it takes for-

mal notice of the fact that it sits, in many of its most important cases, as a constitutional court. As such, it requires appropriate modes of behaviour. In its constitutional role, it must speak with its maximum institutional authority.

The writer is a political scientist.

yidom Aaron.

Insight into this unique hour of silence is offered by another great contemporary teacher, from an altogether different angle, that of Halacha, Jewish law, as practised to this day at the time of mourning for a personal loss.

The renowned Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik aptly divides the halachic obligatory practice of mourning into three stages. The first, *aninus*, is from the moment of death of a relative for whom one is obliged to mourn (they are: father, mother, child, husband, wife, brother, sister) until burial; the second, *avelut*, commences with burial and lasts seven days (*shiva*); and the third, which lasts 30 days (*shloshim*), and up to the end of the first year (*shana rishona*, or *yahrzeit*).

Aninus represents, according to Rabbi Soloveitchik, "the spontaneous human reaction to death. It is an outcry, a shout, or a howl of grisly horror. Man responds to his defeat at the hands of death with total resignation and with all-consuming, self-devastating, black despair... forsaken, lonely, rejected, enveloped by a hideous darkness." The Halacha - states Rabbi Soloveitchik - has displayed great compassion for this deeply suffering man firmly held in the clutches of his arch-enemy, death. Halacha has never tried to gloss over the sorrowful spectacle of the dying man. In spite of the indomitable faith in eternal life, in immortality, and in continued transcendental existence for all human beings, Halacha understood, like a loving, sympathetic mother, man's fright and confusion with death.

As a result of this approach, Halacha rules that in the stage of *aninus*, when the mourner is in the

category of *va-yidom Aaron*, he is exempt from the performance of all his religious duties. The silence of Aaron envelops him, and in that world of dark silence there is no room for the divine-human alliance expressed by religious precepts, *mitzvot* (see Jack Krieger's excellent anthology, *Jewish Reflections on Death*, Schocken Books).

WHEN LATER ON in the story of the Torah, Moses gets infuriated by the fact that Aaron and his remaining sons have failed to perform the ritual of the sin offering as required, Aaron speaks up (verse 19): "Such things have befallen me. Had I eaten the sin offering today, would the Lord have approved?" Up until then, Aaron never questioned Moses' instructions. Only this time did he, so to speak, contradict Moses and take his case to God himself. He realized that Moses, as compassionate and perceptive as he was, not having personally experienced the grief of such tragedy, could never understand the heart of a person to whom "such things have befallen."

The greatness of Moses is manifested, nevertheless, in the fact that after he heard Aaron's protest he did not ignore or belittle the argument. "And when Moses heard this, he approved," Rashi elaborates: "He admitted his mistake and was not ashamed to say, 'I didn't know.'" The midrash (*Vayikra Rabba*, 13:1), goes even further: "Moses issued a proclamation throughout the camp and said: 'I misinterpreted the law and my brother Aaron came and put me right.'" In this case it was Aaron, the man who experienced suffering, who set the laws of mourning for generations to come, not Moses.

The Torah portion for this week is *Shemini* (Leviticus 9:1-47).

The morning after rotation

ARYENAOR

WE ARE already used to explorations of new ideas to get the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations off the ground, whenever Prime Minister Shimon Peres goes abroad and meets foreign leaders. Time and again he has tried to look for a crack in the wall of Arab refusal to negotiate peace.

The process was repeated this week in Washington. Peres met with Vice President George Bush and Secretary of State George Shultz, and told them that quiet diplomacy is now necessary. Israeli reporters who talked with the premier shortly after his diplomatic meetings got the impression that behind closed doors Peres was more specific. He was not ready to spell out in public what he had in mind, and this could be a sign that something substantive had been discussed.

For Peres this is almost the last opportunity to change the course of events by his own initiative. In little more than half a year from now he will have to leave office. The closer he comes to that date the fewer are the chances to start meaningful negotiations. Everybody knows that, upon his departure, Peres's policy will be relinquished. The Arabs know it, the Americans know it and his successor, Vice Premier Yitzhak Shamir, knows it. And this is the reason Shamir sits quietly and calmly, watching Peres's attempts to restart the political process.

This analysis is strengthened by the remarks of Deputy Defence Minister Michael Dekel in *The Jerusalem Post* on Wednesday. When Shamir becomes premier, Dekel said, he will have to examine whether procedures initiated by Peres meet his criteria and whether he should pursue or amend them. Regarding recent attempts to improve the quality of life in the territories, Dekel said these were part of Peres's policy and "not so much the government's policy," hence reassessment of that policy by Shamir when he takes over would be legitimate.

What Dekel said explicitly about the improvement of the quality of life in the territories could be taken implicitly regarding the rest of the peace efforts undertaken by the premier. Dekel, one of Shamir's closest aides, made a clear distinction between government policy that will continue after the rotation and Peres's personal initiatives, which will be subject to reassessment by his successor.

BEYOND the personal dimensions of Peres's initiatives, which will cease upon his departure, there is a significant, clear political difference between the two premiers and their respective ideologies. The result is likely to be a diplomatic upheaval. On the one hand, Peres's initiatives will be stopped and his commitments will no longer be binding on the country; on the other hand, new steps in a new direction will take place.

That new direction is, of course, the renewal of the Likud's settlement policy. Dekel has grounds to hope that after the rotation Shamir will boost Jewish settlement in Judea and Samaria. The deputy defence minister said that over the past two years or so the settlement drive had slowed down, because potential settlers feared that government would withhold aid. But Shamir's ascendancy would "calm them on the one hand and motivate them on the other."

This is a rational anticipation. Dekel, who was already in charge of settlement policy under Shamir's premiership, knows the importance ascribed by Shamir to settling in the territories. For Shamir, it is a real matter of belief, stronger and deeper

than changing political circumstances. Taking his ideology seriously, as he does, Shamir will do his utmost to promote settlement everywhere in Eretz Yisrael.

THE LABOUR PARTY will not be able to do anything about it. First of all, they knew this when they signed the coalition agreement. There is nothing new in ascribing to Shamir a strong will to renew and to speed settlement policy, especially under a government of national unity. The legitimacy gained for settlement by such a government is of special significance, and this was a major argument for the establishment of the national unity government.

Secondly, does Labour have another political option? Suppose it foments a crisis, quits the coalition and forces an early election. Nobody will remember Peres's achievements. The main issue will be the future of Judea and Samaria, and in the absence of progress in the peace process, the Likud's positions on this issue are more popular than Labour's. And so, while waiting for a better reason to cause a political crisis, they will have no choice but to stay in Shamir's cabinet.

There is a third reason. Due to the balance between the two blocs in the cabinet, the prime minister tends to become more powerful. Since policy must be conducted, the premier will do so on his own, should the cabinet fail to reach a decision. This process has already taken place under Peres, hence neither he himself nor his party can delegitimize it if and when Shamir uses the same technique.

BUT THE essence of Dekel's remarks is not to lay the grounds for an October upheaval. One can even question the wisdom of doing so on the eve of the Labour Party national convention, which, among other things, has to decide on the implementation of the rotation agreement. A rational political approach should have persuaded him to keep quiet, at least until after an affirmative decision is made on the rotation issue. Why did he provide arguments to those delegates who oppose the implementation of rotation?

The answer is that Dekel's remarks should not be read in the context of the Labour convention, but in the context of the recent Herut convention. According to Dekel - and not only him - Shamir's internal opponents should pay attention to the real issue at stake.

Keeping the rotation agreement depends very much on keeping the peace inside Herut. To continue with violent internal opposition means much more than endangering the personal career of Yitzhak Shamir. Under the current circumstances, it means endangering the renewal of a speedy, stable settlement policy on the one hand and the relinquishment of Peres's initiatives, which are considered dangerous to the future of Israel's hold over Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District. Only with the acceptance of Shamir's leadership is there a chance to get rid of God-knows-what has been promised by Peres. That is the message, according to Dekel.

But as happens quite often in politics, the context in which one's words should be understood is not necessarily the context in which they have an impact. Words, especially written words, have existence of their own. And Dekel's words, conceived as representing Shamir's way of thinking, cannot but influence Shimon Peres, who does not want to see his policy and his influence on shaping the reality in the region vanish. He is too experienced a survivor to allow this to happen.

The writer was cabinet secretary under the Begin government.

Thundering silence

TORA TODAY / Pinhas Peli

plexity of silence. This is done brilliantly by Prof. Andre Neher in his book *L'Exile de la Parole* (recently translated into English as *The Exile of the Word*, published by JPS). According to him Aaron's silence was in no way a silence of acquiescence, but rather an expression of total "petrification." Aaron could not live with the theological explanation offered by Moses, his brother and master, "through them that are like unto me will I be sanctified." Like Job, Aaron would be less disturbed in his reaction to the mystery of death than by the interpretations which people strive to give to it. "Here," says Neher, "we put our finger on a biblical attitude which the example of Job illustrates in a remarkable manner, namely that Man can accept God's silence, but not that other men should speak in his place." That also includes Moses, even when speaking in the name of God.

What may appear as sound theological argument fades in the face of petrifying personal tragedy. Aaron was in no position to absorb at that moment what Moses was trying to tell him. And how was he going to tell his wife Elisheva about it? Would any theological explanations,

no matter how deep or authoritative, soothe the mother bereaved of her handsome, dazzling and promising son? She had been brought up in a princely home. Her father was Amnadvav, her brother Nahshon, the prince of the tribe of Judah (Exodus 6:23). Would she ever grasp the awesome sublime God talk of her revered brother-in-law?

AARON'S SILENCE was thundering in face of the ugliness and cruelty of death. I know of no other person besides Abraham Joshua Heschel, who struggled so hard to explain death and make us face it as "reciprocity on man's part for God's gift of life" and as the mysterious "ultimate self-dedication to the divine." Yet, he also understood that death could be "grim, harsh, cruel and a source of infinite grief." It leads to silence of a kind described by Heschel as following: "Our first reaction to death is consternation. We are stunned and distraught. Slowly our sense of dismay is followed by a sense of mystery. Suddenly a whole life has veiled itself in secrecy. Our speech stops, our understanding fails. In the presence of death there is only silence and a sense of awe."

"And Aaron was silent." Va-

IN THE MIDST of the festive celebration of the dedication of the sanctuary, calamity strikes. The people shout in exaltation, witnessing the glory of God, taking pride in Aaron and his sons as they majestically inaugurate the divine service (Leviticus 9:24); a moment later Nadab and Abihu, the two brilliant sons of Aaron, are dead (*Ibid.*, 10:2). What a disaster. Havoc.

Moses, as an astute leader, is first to take hold of the situation. He ordered that the bodies be removed from the scene immediately and the divine service go on. Only later would he draw conclusions from the unfortunate event. There was one more thing he would not be able to postpone. He had to talk to his brother Aaron, the bereaved father of Nadab and Abihu. "Then Moses said unto Aaron, this is it that the Lord spoke, saying, through them that are like unto me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified."

High sounding words, containing a profound theological truth, uttered on the authority of the Lord himself. How did Aaron react to them?

"And Aaron was silent." This is one word in the original Hebrew text: *Va-yidom*.

What was the nature of Aaron's silence? Did it mean that he accepted the explanation offered by Moses and felt comforted, as some classic commentators would want us to understand, or was something else being expressed in that loaded silence?

Va-yidom, the word which describes Aaron's reaction at that moment, connotes in fact much more than sheer silence, or passive speechlessness. Examination of the biblical parallels of the root from whence the word derives opens up wide vistas of insights into the com-

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Banking: consumers find it easy to part with money

STRANGE things are happening to consumers of financial services. If you want to borrow money from the bank, or defer payment to shops, supermarkets and department stores, you've never had it so good. Times have changed so much that the customer is actually being pursued and tempted with a variety of offers to persuade him to part with his money.

April 1 brought a number of important moves in the consumer finance field. The banks switched over (back) would be more correct, since the current system only went into operation in early 1984) to a quarterly interest charge on regular overdrafts and loans, in place of monthly debits. Credit cards moved from twice-monthly debits of their holders accounts to monthly debits.

On the other hand, the authorities have authorized the banks to hike charges on their services by an average of 10 per cent although the details of which service charges will rise and by how much have not yet been announced. The current rise of

10 per cent will be followed next month by another one averaging 5 per cent. These are the first increases in bank charges since last July, but if the price freeze continues to melt, the banks can be expected to shove their prices up as often and as sharply as they can.

One reason for this, and for the likely acquiescence of the Bank of Israel and maybe even the Treasury, is that interest rates are now below the rate of inflation. The prime rate in the commercial banks of 1.25 per cent is below the roughly 1.5 per cent monthly inflation of February and expected in March. The 2.5-3 per cent cost of overdrafts to the general public is probably less than April's index will turn out to be, and possibly less than May's. The collection of interest once a quarter instead of once a month also reduces the effective rate, because the nominal rate is only compounded four times a year instead of 12.

Furthermore, the availability of bank credit to consumers has increased dramatically in recent

months. The rival personal overdraft schemes introduced in January have one common feature: they seek to attract the small-to-medium size personal customer to the bank by giving him a cheap and straightforward line of credit to use as and when he sees fit. The decline in the demand for most bank services, a key development last year encompassing savings schemes, foreign currency services and securities, forces the banks to compete where the customers still showed an interest - in current account services and in personal overdrafts. For a banking system used to lending primarily to corporations, and then only to whom it chose, while the personal customer was there to be milked for his savings, this is all a rather new world, which the banks are still getting to know. The first lesson is that in a disinflationary environment, when the bank is not a vital everyday service, the customer is king.

PINHAS LANDAU

A SIMILAR thing has happened to the supermarket chains. With the demise (for the moment at least) of two-figure monthly inflation, people have time and patience to shop around. Even more unusual, they have the option of not buying but simply delaying their purchases. On top of this fall in demand, prices are frozen for most goods and therefore profits are being squeezed from both sides. The solution, not surprisingly, is more intense competition in both new and old arenas.

With the scope for price-cutting campaigns limited, price competition has centred on credit terms. Here the chains are competing with each other, with other shops and with the credit cards that, after much moaning, they have decided to continue honouring even after the switch to monthly debits.

The latest rage among the chains is to issue their own cards which, while

not real credit cards, offer membership in informal "clubs" whose members can give post-dated cheques instead of using their regular credit cards. Those terms of credit can be varied easily, so that the chains can use them as a flexible response to outside competition. Indeed, so flexible are they that the Supersol branch in the Jerusalem suburb of Ramot gave better terms to its customers than others in the same chain because the adjacent Ben-Ben mini-market was undercutting it with better credit terms.

The other area of competition, again especially suitable to a price-frozen economy, is in the hours of opening (Saturday night and late evenings) and in other forms of customer service. These features, considered standard overseas, almost certainly stem from the same source - the novel fact that the client's custom can be longer taken for granted. In a stable economy, people won't auto-

matically queue up at the retailer's door.

Another spin-off of the fall in the cost of money - so that not getting to the bank on time to make a deposit is not the expensive disaster it used to be - is that the client can pay more attention to the cost of transactions and their frequency, especially now that bank charges are on the rise again.

All the banks have installed automated teller machines (ATMs), and customers have accepted them as cheap and convenient. The time saved and the convenience of being able to talk to the machine almost any time of the day or night, are enhanced by the fact that transactions made through the ATM cost half the amount of those made via a human teller. People have learned to draw cash from the ATMs and now they are frequently using them for cheque deposits (also possible through self-service boxes), balance inquiries and even deposits in *taps* and *pakam* accounts. Some banks have programmed their ATMs to

spew out the customer's statements and notifications as well, keeping him more up to date and saving themselves postage. Even those who don't offer this service through the exterior ATM provide it inside the branch from an on-line terminal, so that there is no more waiting in line just to get a statement. In fact, so dramatic is the fall in customer visits to banks nowadays that there isn't much waiting in line for anything.

Finally, and many people tend to ignore this just out of sheer habit, the stability of money makes it permissible to carry cash again. A growing band of smart consumers draw all their money from the ATMs and make as many of their day-to-day payments as they can in cash. They avoid writing cheques because each cheque costs some 6 agorot and each transaction costs 10 agorot for an account in credit and 25 agorot for an overdraft account (prior to the current rises). Paying small sums in cash and not writing cheques can save quite a few shekels a month which, in the new environment of normalcy, is not to be sniffed at.

Israel plays second-line role in drug making

DAVID KRIVINE
Purse Strings

UNABLE to get bufacyl in the shops for three successive months, I approached Professor Ephraim Mencil, head of Pharmaceutical Administration in the Health Ministry. He brushed aside my complaint. "If there is a holdup in this supply, maybe it is due to a spurt in export orders," he speculated. "Anyway, you can get other aspirins just as good."

Five-thousand medicaments are available in Israel, he informed me - 2,000 of them locally produced and the rest imported. Why can we not produce them all here? "Because a foreign firm inventing a new drug is protected by patents giving it exclusivity for 19 years."

Why don't we create our own new drugs? "We can't afford the research," according to Mencil, investment in research averages \$800m-\$1b. for each "breakthrough" drug.

"The only breakthrough drug we have developed is interferon, and that is because the Weizmann Institute did all the investigation at its own expense."

"Apart from that, Israel confines itself to improving existing formulas, adapting them to local climatic and other conditions. We are second-line manufacturers in this field, not first-line," he observes.

The enormous cost of the research goes far to explain why some drugs are so inordinately expensive. A doctor friend of mine who works in a hospital confided to me one evening that in his department patients receiving a kidney transplant are prescribed a drug which dissuades the body from rejecting the transplant.

"This treatment costs \$1,000 a month. How the sick person is to find the money we don't know," he concludes gloomily.

Since the last war a revolution in pharmaceuticals has transformed medicine world-wide. One of the initial discoveries was cortisone,



which mutes the body's over-reactions, e.g., to inflammation, thus reducing swelling, pain and discomfort.

The effects of cortisone on traumatic injuries (wounds) are so great that medical men refer on the time scale to BC and AC - Before Cortisone and After Cortisone.

The most powerful pain killer used to be morphine. It has now been superseded by MCT, which anesthetizes for eight hours instead of two or three, and is not habit-forming (morphine is an opium drug).

Ulcers used to require surgery. Cimetidine pills now heal ulcers without surgery, reducing the acid in the stomach. And so it goes on. Mencil believes that modern medicaments have changed the quality of life. More benefits are on the way, the revolution is just beginning.

Drugs are coming into production that will decrease the cholesterol in the human metabolism, thus reducing cardiac diseases. Other drugs will regulate the activity of the heart.

Drugs are being developed that will kill cancer cells. Indications are that within the next five years it may be possible to cure early cases of cancer, particularly blood cancer.

These breakthroughs cost money and can only pay their way if the medicaments enjoy a big market. Rare ailments provide a small market, so the necessary drugs tend not to be developed.

Worse still is the situation in poor countries. Certain diseases, mainly tropical, affect many people, but the purchasing power of the population is low. The market is therefore too

small to justify the urgently needed research.

I conclude that the already wide health gap between advanced and Third World countries must be widening further. I wonder whether there is really any point in my pestering people about my bufacyl.

WE ISRAELIS seem bad at timing. Haifa's new cable railway cannot cover its costs unless it runs seven days a week. Logic dictates that the problem of Shabbat be tackled before construction begins.

Instead, the railway is built first and now stands idle, while the fur flies over what to do on the weekly day of rest.

Plans for the Mormon university in Jerusalem were submitted, discussed by the various public and other committees and posted in the press for all to see. An Orthodox cabinet minister gave his approval to the project; yet nary a word from the ultra-Orthodox - until the campus is half built. Would it not be more sensible to protest before facts are created on the ground?

Not only the religious are at fault. Mamilla is emptied of its occupants, except for one large edifice (the only ugly structure, built in the modern style and occupied by a public institution). The purpose was to allow reconstruction according to a grandiose plan for the Old City and its surroundings.

Shops, offices and flats were vacated at great expense to the taxpayer - and then nothing. Years go by with no reconstruction. The approach road to the Jaffa Gate has become a ghost area.

A shekel goes a long way at Ramle Market

MICHAL YUDELMAN

THE RAMLE Market is not only a place to buy things at reasonable prices. It's a way of life. A few hours in its alleys and by-ways, where for two shekels you can get more food than you can eat, and sanity begins seeping back to even the most troubled mind.

Once a week the market comes to Ramle. Not that it doesn't have its own permanent market, overflowing with rosy radishes, plump strawberries, crisp cauliflowers and every kind of herb, spice and legume. But the term "Ramle market" refers to the visiting fair-cum-garage sale which, every Wednesday at dawn, stakes its claim on the fringes of the permanent market.

When the town's residents wake up on Wednesday, the market is already past its breakfast and well into business. As far as the eye can see, lanes, alleys and empty lots are lined with clothes, houseware, kitchen utensils, pickles and knickknacks, and a dazzling array of T-shirts, toys, rugs and fabrics.

It is advisable to start the day with a Tunisian sandwich - the local version of the American hero or sub-

marine sandwich - at the kiosk at the entrance to the market. This is a huge white roll, some 25 cm. long, whose doughy centre has been replaced by a filling that includes tuna fish, potatoes, salads and hot, red sauce. The sandwich of which I'm managed to eat half, and a glass of arak, cost NIS 2.5.

THE VENDORS improvise chants and rhymes, bordering on poetry, for their "unique" wares. "Don't say I saw but didn't get it! And now I regret it," and "These pants are a lucky find! They fit each and every behind" were two of the pearls I picked up.

A handsome, fair young man with a muscular bare chest towers over a display of kitchenware: crockery, cutlery, pots and pans, trays and the like. He is surrounded by young and not-so-young women, fingering his merchandise.

A set of five pots and five pans, in graduated sizes, red enamel with

removable handles, imported from Italy, is priced at NIS 100, before bargaining. Full and half-length mirrors, framed in pseudo-antique style, are quoted at NIS 50 and NIS 30 respectively.

Figure on 20-30 per cent less, depending on your bargaining powers.

Stalls brimming with work tools offer sets of six screwdrivers in various sizes (NIS 15), electric A.E.G. and Bosch drills (NIS 70), precision sets, car jacks, hammers and other tools. One large, self-revolving screwdriver, complete with about six or seven heads of different sizes, costs NIS 12.

Ferrari sun-glasses (probably fake) for NIS 5; air fresheners for NIS 2, long T-shirts for NIS 10, a toilet scrubbing-brush in a plastic holder for NIS 2. Cosmetics, children's clothes, copper articles and kitsch china figurines, track suits, jeans and sweaters... all for very down-to-earth prices.

AFTER A couple of hours in the sunny marketplace, things shrink back to their normal proportions. One begins to realize that simple things have simple, everyday prices.

The market's *pièce de résistance* is its huge fabric display, a full day's amusement. Wool, flannel, cotton, velvet, synthetics, upholstery and every kind of fabric you can imagine is laid out there in vivid colours and textures. People come from near and far to buy material for curtains, a wedding dress, clothes, whatever. A dress designer's delight.

By one o'clock the wandering market begins to pack up. Many of the stalls have disappeared. Walking beneath heavy chains of garlic that suffuse the entire vegetable market with their aroma, you reach a little restaurant with an amazing choice of meat on skewers. Two skewers of kebab (big ones), a large Iraqi pitta, several salads, a bunch of parsley, pickles and hot sauce, two beers and one cool drink, set you back NIS 5.

A visit to Ramle on a Wednesday is one way to spend a day without feeling cheated.

He thrives on consumers' complaints

AARON SITTNER / Business Beat

COMPLAINTS, complaints, complaints. Most people can't stand to listen to them. Adi Horovitz loves them; he thrives on them. Horovitz, you see, is director of Israel's Better Business Bureau. Though our BBB is going through hard times lately because of the usual budget crunch, Horovitz is still trying to carry on - single handedly. Take the case of the Givatayim chap who took his inoperative cassette recorder into the service shop in Tel Aviv for repair.

"Come back on Thursday and I'll tell you how much it will cost," says the technician.

On Thursday our man returns and is told that his machine is all fixed, and that the price is NIS 190 - "had to replace the motor."

"But...but...but...you told me that..." So our friend dejectedly plops down the money, rushes home and even before switching on the recorder, pens an angry letter to BBB.

Horovitz receives the letter in his Rehov Allenby office and immediately gets to work. First, he has a "friendly chat" with the technician and then writes to the complainant. End of story: the Givatayim chap receives a call from the technician. He returns to the shop with his machine. The technician apologizes, removes the new motor, replaces the old one and returns NIS 170 to the customer. (The NIS 20 he keeps is his charge for opening and inspecting the recorder.)

Horovitz will handle any consumer complaint unless it involves price gouging ("I'm not in competition with the Ministry of Industry and Trade") or if it is already in the hands of a lawyer or has been filed with a court.

Better business bureaus all over the Western world are non-profit organizations maintained by businessmen whose aim is to get the public to place full confidence in the business community.

Horovitz claims that BBB-Israel's code of advertising is stricter than that included in the Knesset's Consumer Protection Law. An avid newspaper reader, Horovitz devours his papers backwards: he starts with the classified ads, then takes on the display advertisements, and from there goes on to the headlines and news stories.

He becomes incensed when he comes across an advert with a price that is not accompanied by a slogan - either "plus VAT" or "including VAT". The potential purchaser of merchandise or a service must know the actual price he will have to pay, Horovitz insists - and he does not hesitate to immediately contact the advertiser to bring this to his attention.

"Most complaints I receive - either about unfair advertising or just plain bad business practices -

involve those who are not members of BBB," he says proudly. Yet, he will follow up any acceptable complaint, whether or not the alleged violator is a BBB member.

IN AN EFFORT to protect both merchants and consumers, BBB-Israel has begun to lobby for a law barring the manufacture or importation of counterfeit goods.

In the U.S., where the forgery of big-name fashionware alone is an \$8 billion-a-year business, a special anti-counterfeit, anti-forged goods law was enacted last year, forbidding the marketing, manufacturing or importing of such merchandise. Horovitz wants such a law here because existing business laws are inadequate in this grey zone, he says. For example, he wants both the police and customs agents to have the right to confiscate suspected counterfeit merchandise pending court action.

Horovitz also provides secondary schools with study material for their consumer awareness courses and has appealed to the Tourism Ministry to place "caution advisories" in all

hotel rooms to assist foreign visitors on the use of their credit cards here.

An American tourist who bought "a bargain, a genuine diamond ring" on her credit card for \$250 at a shop in the Old City of Jerusalem was more than shocked when she had it valued by her jeweller back home. "Even \$10 would have been too much to pay for this piece of glass," he assured her.

When she turned to her credit card company she discovered that the shopkeeper had not inserted his shop's stencilled name and address in the card printer.

The tourist's credit card company was referred to BBB-Israel by the Council of Better Business Bureaus in Washington. Armed with a letter from the tourist, Horovitz enlisted the aid of Jerusalem police and the local Visa card office, and the errant shopkeeper, who "may have overlooked" the need to insert the stencil, was tracked down. Whenever you buy jewelry on your credit card, Horovitz recommends, you should ask for a separate invoice just the same.

The economic page is edited by Shlomo Maoz.

MARKET
PLACETravails
of a
travel
agent

Once upon a time I was a naive, law-abiding citizen - but no more. I would inform customers that they were subject to a 20 per cent tax on all tickets purchased in Israel, even if paid for by a cheque in foreign currency from abroad, unless they fit into certain categories: tourist, diplomat, or a resident in the country less than 20 years.

Several months ago I lost a sale because a customer was told by one of my distinguished colleagues that if payment was made from abroad in foreign currency, he would be exempt from the 20 per cent tax.

I was furious and indignant. I gathered all the details, including flight number, date, name and ticket number, and passed the information on to the customs authorities. As a law-abiding travel agent I was proud to be of service to my country - no money to be wasted on expensive investigations - here were all the facts at their fingertips.

All I had to do was to sit back and wait to read of the stiff fine imposed on my errand colleague. Perhaps even a letter of commendation for my good citizenship?

These were foolish pipe-dreams of an (ex-) idealistic immigrant from the enlightened West. After being informed by customs that their investigations were strictly confidential, I managed to arrange a meeting with one of their chief investigators, who was quick to point out that he had no interest in such an isolated case.

Only if this was one of a series of cases, would he be interested. Big fish only! Furthermore, since it was obvious that I was using him to incriminate a colleague, would I finally stop wasting his time!

Full of more self-righteous indignation, I went straight to the top - the minister of finance. Does not the law reign supreme in Zion? And who, if not the finance minister, is going to see to it that taxes are collected in accordance with his regulations?

What a let-down. The minister also informed me that investigations undertaken by his underlings are confidential, and not divulged to the public.

The moral of the story is - if you can't lick them, join them. So I have instructed my staff not to collect the 20 per cent tax on tickets paid for in foreign currency from abroad.

Perhaps my colleague is right after all - why not accept foreign currency? According to our insane laws, a ticket paid for abroad and issued here is exempt from the 20 per cent tax. (This was not the case when I lost my sale.) So why trouble clients to return the money abroad to be paid through an agent in New York? Rather accept the payment and have the agent in Israel make the commission than the agent in New York.

So I've become a criminal. Perhaps that's how I'll survive? Let the stupid Diaspora Jews continue their tirades about good citizenship and the rule of the law. Here in the Promised Land - we get by.

(The writer's identity is known to the editors, but he wishes to remain anonymous.)

Fine-tuning
severance pay

By TSIPPI KUPPER
A worker whose salary was temporarily reduced by a collective labour agreement before he was fired, should receive severance pay on the basis of his previous earnings.

The Knesset Labour and Social Affairs Committee approved this amendment to the Labour Compensation Law on Tuesday, and placed it on the Knesset agenda for the bill's second and third reading.

A worker who was fired during the wage freeze should receive a supplement to his compensation pay, according to the bill.

MK Yisrael Kessar (Labour) proposed taking into account the C-o-L rises from the last salary increment until the day the worker was fired. But the committee postponed debate on his legislative proposal in order to avoid delay. The government is opposed to Kessar's proposal.

WARSHIP - India has signed a memorandum of understanding to buy the 28,500-ton aircraft-carrier Hermes. Britain's flag ship during its 1982 Falklands war with Argentina, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said yesterday, estimating that the warship is worth about \$85 million.

Call for an 'arnona revolt'

By MACABEE DEAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV - "It's the cheapest and best financial deal in town, and we are going to use it to beat the mayors of all cities and towns to their knees," Dan Gillerman, president of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, yesterday told *The Jerusalem Post*. "And it's entirely legal."

Gillerman was referring to the nationwide "protest movement" against the huge hike in municipal rates (arnona) he is leading on behalf of 16 major economic organizations. They include the Manufacturers Association, the Farmers Association, the Merchants Association, the Federation of Builders and Contractors, and the Hotel Association.

Even the Histadrut has thrown its moral support behind the movement, with leading Histadrut officials charging that in some cities the arnona for a year accounts for about one month's wages, which is a terrible blow to working people whose incomes have already been eroded in the past few months.

"The cheapest and best financial deal in town" is to refuse to pay the arnona. "Under the law, all the municipalities can do is link the unpaid sum - and this means nothing today, when inflation is nil, plus charging half of one per cent interest a month on the unpaid sum. Where

send some of his experts to help Israel find oil off shore. Kandil agreed immediately.

Shahal told *The Post* that some drilling had been done opposite El-Arish when it was under Israeli control, but that the company concerned stopped drilling before reaching the depth at which the Egyptians have now found oil.

Shahal is confident that there is oil under the Mediterranean. "If the Egyptians found oil opposite El-



Dan Gillerman

can any person in Israel borrow money at such low interest?" Gillerman asks. It will take many months until the cities can change the law and charge higher interest.

Thousands of businessmen and self-employed have already responded to Gillerman's suggestion to cancel their standing orders at banks in regard to arnona payments.

The protest movement has made such inroads on collections that Mayor Dov Tavori of Petah Tikva, in his capacity as chairman of the Local Authorities Union, has filed a complaint with the police against all these organizations, charging them with "conspiracy and incitement to rebellion."

Gillerman reiterates that the protest movement is entirely legal, and

that if any citizen regrets his action, he can always change his mind on the last day of April.

"Under the present circumstances, when wages have been eroded, when retail and wholesale turnovers are down, when the price of most manufactured goods is frozen, it is simply insolent for the mayors to demand enormous hikes," Gillerman says.

According to the examples he gives, one plant in Ramat Yishay, near Haifa, has been asked to pay the equivalent of \$213,750 on the same plant and lot where it paid only \$1,706 16 years ago.

Rehov Modi'in, which runs through Bnei Brak, Ramat Gan and Givatayim, presents an amusing problem, he says. Two identical shops, separated only by a municipal boundary, have to pay different sums - and the difference is 300 per cent.

Gillerman says that the protest movement will end only when the Knesset Finance Committee takes the rate-fixing prerogative away from the local authorities. "And even then we will demand a full accounting from each city and town; how much is the mayor's salary and all those little 'extras' which mount up so fast; how much is his staff paid, how many cars do they have and the kilometrage they are paid."

Egyptian experts to help Israel find oil off shore

By YITZHAK OKED
TEL AVIV - Three Egyptian offshore oil exploration experts are expected to arrive here today to advise Israeli colleagues on the best way to carry out such operations.

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that he had personally called Egyptian Oil Minister Abdel Hani Kandil to congratulate him on the recent off-shore oil find west of El-Arish. At the same time he asked Kandil to

send some of his experts to help Israel find oil in the Mediterranean. Kandil agreed immediately.

Shahal told *The Post* that some drilling had been done opposite El-Arish when it was under Israeli control, but that the company concerned stopped drilling before reaching the depth at which the Egyptians have now found oil.

Shahal is confident that there is oil under the Mediterranean. "If the Egyptians found oil opposite El-

Arish, there is no reason why it cannot be found opposite Israel's coastline which geologically is a continuation of the Sinai coast."

Speaking before the Israeli committee of the World Energy Conference, Shahal said that he had restructured the various government companies and bodies dealing with oil exploration, leaving only skeleton crews. The entire matter of oil exploration is now left to private companies.

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

MARKET STATISTICS

Indices:

General Share Index	114.86	-0.86%
Non-Bank Index	130.89	-0.78%
Arrangement	107.22	-0.24%
Insurance	151.57	+0.57%
Commerce, Services	138.89	-0.06%
Real Estate	180.25	+0.01%
Industrial	121.99	-1.25%
Textiles	148.41	-1.26%
Metals	112.78	-3.41%
Electronics	102.29	-1.30%
Chemicals	120.66	-0.22%
Industrial Invest.	125.60	-0.19%
Investment Cos.	136.81	-0.42%
General Bond Index	102.85	-0.12%
Index-Linked Bonds	102.73	-0.15%
Fully-linked	104.41	-0.12%
Partially-linked	101.62	-0.17%
Dollar-linked Bonds	100.68	-0.13%
Short-term 0-2 yrs	102.06	-0.15%
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	102.39	-0.16%
Long-term 5+ yrs	102.44	-0.09%

Turnovers:

Shares - total	NIS 11,311,400
Arrangement	NIS 4,562,800
Non-bank	NIS 6,748,600
Bonds - total	NIS 5,162,600
Index-linked	NIS 2,582,900
Dollar-linked	NIS 2,579,700
Treasury Bills	NIS 11,647,900

Share Movements:

Advances	106	(118)
Declines	20	(24)
Unchanged	108	(108)
Trading Halt	48	(43)

Bond Market Trends:

Index-linked	Falls to 1%
3% fully-linked	Falls to 1%

4.25% fully-linked	Mixed to 3%
80% linked	Stable/mixed to 1%
90% linked	Mostly stable
Double-linked	Stable/mixed to 1%
Dollar-linked	Falls to 1.5%
Admon	Falls to 1%
Gilboa	Falls to 1.5%
For. Curr.	Rises to 1%
Treasury Bills	1.35% to 1.51%
(monthly yield)	

Arrangement yields:

IDB ord.	11.36%
Union B.T.	10.92%
Discount A	11.11%
Mizrahi r.	11.21%
Hapoalim r.	11.47%
General A	10.88%
Leumi stock	11.42%
Fin. Trade I	10.02%

SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

Name	Price	Volume	%
			1000N change

Commercial Banks

(not part of "arrangement")			
Maritime 1	1307	4286	+2.0
General non-arr.	33900	40	-0.5
First Int'l	3400	1682	+1.5
FIBI	3680	2578	+0.1

Commercial Banks

(part of "arrangement")			
IDB r.	81550	908	-0.5
Union 0.1	61300	103	-0.3
Discount	104700	107	-0.6
Mizrahi	33280	1037	-0.6
Hapoalim r.	55275	2546	-0.2
General A	143200	23	-
Leumi 0.1	35150	4480	-0.9
Fin. Trade	48180	1.0	-

Mortgage Banks

Leumi Mort. r.	4000	94	-
Dev. Mort.	1080	525	-
Mifshan r.	2070	320	-8.0
Tel Aviv r.	11340	81	-10.0
Morav r.	3180	1680	-1.8

Financial Institutions

Agri. C.	35500	4	-
Ind. Dev. DD	no trading		
Clae Leasing 0.1	9252	152	-10.0

Insurance

Ararat 0.1 r.	4545	238	+2.1
Hesneh r.	489	29484	+1.0
Phoenix 0.1	1300	1376	+3.2
Hesnehmer	7180	136	-1.4
Menorah r.	6550	14	+0.8
Sahar r.	4845	453	-0.6
Zion Hold. 1	13205	278	-

Trade & Services

Melr Ezra	4280	36	-
Supersol 2	4300	574	-1.1
Delek r.	4850	1928	+0.2
Lighterage	8900	45	-3.4
Cold Storage	1104	480	-
Dan Hotels	4870	893	+3.0
Yarden Hotel	3300	191	+4.8
Hilon 1	11889	75	+4.3
Tamir 1	1820	1245	-9.0

Real Estate, Building and Agriculture

Asotim	4450	2120	+2.5
Eilon	1555	b.o.1	+5.0
Africa Isr. 0.1	36820	45	+0.1
Dankner	3780	428	-2.6
Prop. & Bldg.	2710	3013	-
Bayvada 0.1	4300	454	+8.3
IDC r.	43550	208	-1.0
Rassco r.	5700	241	-0.2
Mahadim	6285	472	-0.2
Hedarm	1190	5163	-

Industrials

Dubek b	3554	120	-0.6
Pr-Zi r.	2295	1546	+0.2
Sunroast	5553	458	-10.0
Elite	14000	76	-2.1
Adgar	700	3576	-0.3
Argamam r.	8833	683	+4.6
Delta G 1	4630	583	-2.5
Maquette 1	22425	15	+1.0
Eagle 1	8460	114	-5.0
Poligot 0.1	8820	213	-
Schoellerma	15100	44	-1.9
Rogovin	3010	734	-3.8
Urdan 0.1 r.	9000	180	-4.5
Is. Can Co. 1	1065	4519	-4.1
Zion Cables	2070	1147	-8.0
Pecker Steel	5315	56	-3.0
Elbit 3 r.	414889	10	+0.7

Investment Companies

IDB Dev. r.	3800	2122	-
Elram	2745	1690	+1.7
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Gabelet	1380	115	+3.0
Israel Corp. 1	6710	247	+2.4
Wolfson 1 r.	98200	8	+5.0
Hapoalim Inv.	4540	1216	-
Leumi Invest.	4400	854	-1.1
Discount Invest.	2290	12966	-5.0
Mizrahi Invest.	18930	114	+0.8
Clae 10	2400	1217	-
Lendeco 0.1	8340		-
Pama 0.1	9490	187	-

Oil Exploration

Paz Oil Expl.	12400	115	-2.0
J.O.E.L.	1518	2385	-1.1

Abbreviations:

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Israel Money Markets

April 3, 1986

SHEKEL INTEREST RATES
PRIME BORROWING RATE: 1.25% per month
Unlinked Deposit (Annual Rates)

	LAST UPDATED	TAPAS	PAKAM 7-DAY	PAKAM 30-DAY
LEUMI	3.4	8-12%	8-12.25%	8-14%
HAPAOALIM	13.3	10-12%	11-12%	12-12.5%
DISCOUNT	3.4	7-13%	7-13%	9-13%
MIZRAHI	18.2	12-18%	12-20%	12-18%
FIRST INT'L	12.3	6-13%	7-13%	8-13%

Rates vary according to size of deposit.
(TAPAS: demand deposit paying daily interest.
Pakam: fixed-term deposit available from 7 to 99 days.)

PATAH - FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES (as of April 2)

	3-MONTHS	6-MONTHS	12-MONTHS
USD	6.625	6.500	6.500
STG	10.375	9.825	9.250
DMK	3.875	3.875	3.875
SFR	3.500	3.375	3.250
YEN	3.500	3.375	3.250

Rates vary according to size of deposit and are subject to change.

SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	CHEQUES AND TRANSACTIONS		BANKNOTES		BANK OF ISRAEL Representative Rates	
		Purchase	Sale	Purchase	Sale		
U.S.A.	DOLLAR	1	1.4788	1.45	1.52	1.4885	
GREAT BRITAIN	STERLING	1	2.1650	2.15	2.20	2.1800	
GERMANY	MARK	1	0.6217	0.6285	0.61	0.64	0.6250
FRANCE	FRANC	1	0.2019	0.2044	0.20	0.21	0.2031
HOLLAND	GULDEN	1	0.5518	0.5587	0.54	0.57	0.5545
SWITZERLAND	FRANC	1	0.7472	0.7565	0.73	0.77	0.7507
SWEDEN	KRONA	1	0.1996	0.2021	0.20	0.21	0.2003
NORWAY	KRONE	1	0.2015	0.2040	0.20	0.21	0.2025
DENMARK	KRONE	1	0.1684	0.1705	0.17	0.18	0.1691
FINLAND	MARK	1	0.2802	0.2837	0.27	0.28	0.2818
CANADA	DOLLAR	1	1.0812	1.0744	1.04	1.09	1.0683
AUSTRALIA	DOLLAR	1	1.0818	1.0750	1.00	1.10	1.0698
SOUTH AFRICA	RAND	1	0.6854	0.6840	0.51	0.56	0.5402
BELGIUM	FRANC	10	0.2998	0.3036	0.29	0.31	0.3057
AUSTRIA	SCHILLING	10	0.8882	0.8992	0.87	0.91	0.8911
ITALY	LIRE	1000	0.9134	0.9248	0.89	0.94	0.9193
JAPAN	YEN	100	0.8234	0.8336	0.81	0.84	0.8278
JORDAN	DINAR	1	—	—	4.07	4.12	4.1475
EGYPT	POUND	1	—	—	0.80	0.85	0.8398

THE JERUSALEM POST

Ari Rath
Editor and
Managing Director

Erwin Frenkel
Editor

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A king and his riddles

A ROYAL PALACE spokesman in Amman has now cleared up the mystery surrounding the interview with King Hussein published in *Jane's Defence Weekly* this week. Or has he?

According to the London magazine, Hussein said he might be forced to knuckle under to American pressure for separate peace negotiations between Jordan and Israel as the price of U.S. military aid - unless the oil-rich Arab states honoured their pledge at the 1978 Baghdad summit to pay Jordan an annual \$1.2 billion subsidy, mainly for the purchase of arms. That, the court spokesman said yesterday, "is completely untrue, and contradicts Jordan's unchanged position, which rejects separate negotiations with Israel under any circumstances."

The practical effect of this supposed clarification, however, is only to thicken the mystery further.

The Baghdad summit eight years ago was convened right after Camp David in a desperate effort to dissuade Egypt from actually concluding a peace treaty with Israel and, even more importantly, to make certain that no other Arab state should follow Egypt's example by signing a separate peace with the Jewish state. Jordan went along, but for a price, now publicly quoted by Hussein. The oil-rich Arabs, with the sole exception of Saudi Arabia, have not kept their side of the bargain, which is no wonder considering how hard the oil times they have lately fallen upon. And neither had Hussein kept his commitment.

The international conference Hussein is insisting upon, which is to be chaired by the big five with Jordan going into it jointly with the Palestinians, is largely a device to blur the fact that Hussein is now willing to consider a separate peace.

It is not to be called a separate peace, of course. Jordan is officially committed to the idea of a comprehensive Middle East settlement. But so is Israel, and the U.S. too. But unless Hussein is merely playing a charade, he must be aware that the only practical outcome that talks within the framework of any such conference may produce is a separate peace between Jordan and Israel. For Syria will not offer to participate, except to blow the whole affair from within. Lebanon does not exist today outside the Syrian design. Iraq has more pressing business to attend to. And Saudi Arabia is not even worth mentioning in this context.

That means that Jordan must fend for itself, albeit jointly with the Palestinians. That is one obvious point he made in the interview with *Jane's* too: that he cannot enter any peace talks without the Palestinians. But this is readily conceded by both Shimon Peres's government and Ronald Reagan's administration, on the understanding that the Palestinians will not be represented by Arafat's pro-terror and anti-242 PLO leadership. Hussein himself has lately been steadily distancing himself from that leadership.

If the king's disavowal now of any intention to make separate peace with Israel is not a mere verbal exercise designed to establish his Arab credentials, it will only leave him weaker and more ineffectual than before. It will certainly not qualify him for U.S. aid, even against the one real threat he faces, which is from Syria. And neither will it gain much by the way of assistance from his Arab brethren. Whether he would be a candidate for the benefits of the kind of Middle Eastern "Marshall Plan" proposed by Mr. Peres is also questionable.

All in all, it is rather a puzzle. If Hussein's true intention is not to throw a monkey wrench into the "diplomatic process" but the contrary, he should clear it up himself, as soon as he returns to Amman from his present trip abroad.

Moda'i's magic mirrors

BEING the very model of a modern finance minister, Yitzhak Moda'i does not tell untruths: he merely cites statistics which, as he demonstrated on television's *Moked* programme Wednesday night, he always has at his fingertips. The statistics are impeccably correct, except that they are misleading.

It is wrong, even if it is true, the finance minister told his interviewers, to argue, as some people do, that the West Bank settlements are being funded at the expense of the development towns this side of the Green Line. The fact, Mr. Moda'i insisted, is that Koor and the kibbutzim were allotted \$175 million by the Investment Centre, while the settlements were earmarked a measly \$14 million, so that it is *they* who are being discriminated against.

The politician in the Liberal Mr. Moda'i is evidently more interested in who gets how much money than in what the money is being spent for, which is what a finance minister should do. Koor and the kibbutzim receive development grants in the expectation, based on past experience, that they would be invested in production, much of it designed for export. The West Bank settlements have so far produced very little except themselves.

The money spent on them - which is not confined to development grants but, as Mr. Moda'i is doubtless aware, also includes cheap mortgages, expensive infrastructure and disproportionately higher spending for education, health and even defence - may be investment in the Messiah. No rational finance minister would consider that a very sensible investment.

But Mr. Moda'i, the finance minister, has now also established an entirely new principle of budget planning and management. The allocations for the settlements, he said, are not made at the expense of the development towns, or of anything else for that matter. They are just placed "side by side" with other allocations.

That is news indeed. Until now it was thought that the budget was so tight that every expenditure on any one item must be at the expense of another, and that any increase in spending for one purpose cannot but result in a reduction of grants for another. The "side-by-side" theory does away with received economic wisdom. But if it holds true, what is it that prevents Mr. Moda'i from spending more on the unfortunate development towns, where a full quarter of the working population is now on the dole?

Strategic bargain

Jerusalem Post Economic Editor Shlomo Maoz looks at the U.S.-Israel alliance in real-cost terms

UNTIL 1977 warships of the U.S. Sixth Fleet did not visit Israeli ports. But since then, many such ships have called at Haifa and Ashdod, with regular visits to the former averaging two ships a month. Since 1977 U.S. warships have anchored here 221 times, including 12 visits by aircraft carriers.

Haifa Port is not the Sixth Fleet's home port, and when its ships call for the purpose of buying provisions or obtaining minor servicing, these are defined as "friendly visits." But there is a clear tendency towards deepening the strategic cooperation between the U.S. and Israel, including the establishment of emergency warehouses in Israel for the Americans and cooperation in the field of military medicine. The Americans were pressed into such cooperation by the Likud governments, which strived for U.S. recognition of Israel as a strategic asset. Accordingly, perhaps, the U.S. decided that it was now possible to ask - and receive - Israel's permission to set up a broadcasting station to transmit the Voice of America's message to the Communist Bloc.

Israel is indeed a strategic asset of the U.S. in the unstable Middle East. In the past Israel was accused of being a cause of such instability; but ever since the outbreak of the interminable war between Iran and Iraq, this claim has weakened and Israel's value has become enhanced. Now that the Arabs have been disarmed of their oil weapon, it is likely that U.S. fears of publicly recognizing Israel as a strategic asset will weaken. For the years have shown the U.S. that other so-called strategic assets in the region have been only temporary: from the days of Libya's King Idris to the present regimes of Iran, Ethiopia or even indecisive Greece.

THERE ARE two schools in Israel regarding the strategic value of the country's military strength for the Americans. There are those who maintain that the aid Israel receives from the U.S. is nothing but a hand-out. The Americans are simply good to us, they say; there is a strong Jewish lobby in the U.S. and the aid just keeps flowing. Others counter

that, while this first school's views are convenient for the Americans, the U.S. is actually paying a bargain price for Israel's services in the region as a superior Western military force that can operate at long range.

Members of the second school argue that, since the U.S. annually spends some \$130 billion on its Nato forces and about \$40b. on its military commitments in the Pacific, its military and civilian aid payments to Israel are absurdly small in comparison; especially when considering them as an investment for protecting America's interests in the region. Moreover, American pressures on Israel to lower its standard of living will only weaken Israel, the defence burden of whose citizens - even with U.S. aid - is already the world's highest. Aren't the Americans exploiting Israel's military needs in order to receive strategic services, even optional ones?

THE FOLLOWING table illustrates the combined military and civilian grants Israel received from the U.S. during given calendar years, and the net grant carried over from year to year.

	TOTAL AID (in millions of dollars)				
	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Grant	1,425	1,260	1,620	2,270	3,915
Less payment on outstanding loans	685	770	930	1,040	1,210
Net grant	740	490	690	1,230	2,705

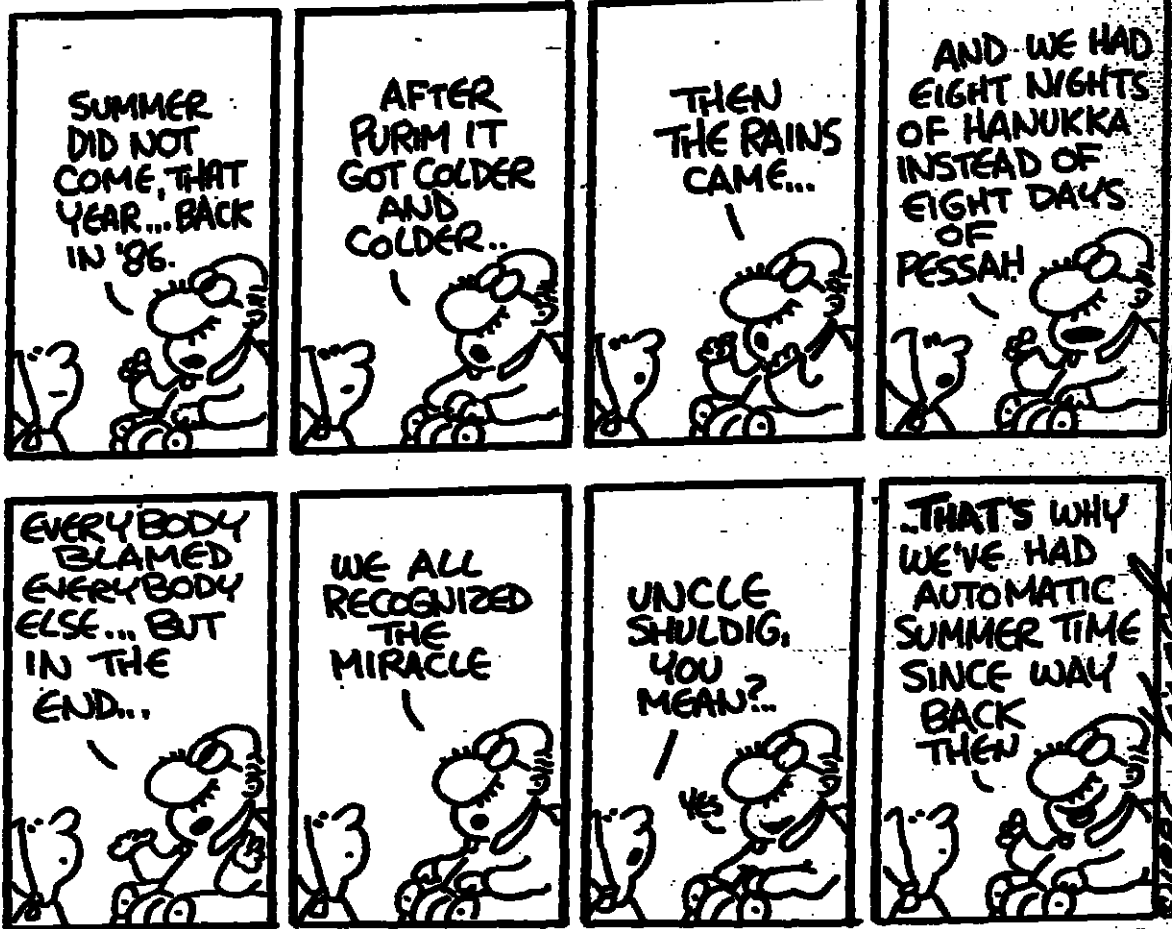
In years when the net grant to Israel dropped, the country's economy underwent a crisis that brought it to the brink of fiscal anarchy. Only after the U.S. administration raised the net amount, doubling and even quadrupling it to about \$2.7b. in 1985, did economic stability return to Israel. Without the emergency aid from the U.S., it would have been nearly impossible for the government to activate the kind of economic recovery plan it did, taking such measures as ending devaluation, the principal spur to inflation.

Israel cannot spend some \$7b. a

cut is possible only by reducing the size of the armed forces; such a cut has apparently not been decided upon.

IT THEREFORE follows that, in the coming years as well, the U.S. will have to provide increased aid for Israel; even if the name be changed from "special aid" to aid of another kind. This process of increasing aid has been going on for more than a decade, ever since the 1973 Yom Kippur War, although each time the form of increased aid has been altered. Once it was special aid on the occasion of Camp David; once

The Friday Dry Bones



year on direct and indirect defence requirements, if the net American aid support falls once again. Even in 1985, when the Americans gave a net \$2.7b., locally-generated defence expenditures amounted to about 19 per cent of Israel's gross national product, compared to 25 per cent in 1984. Despite all the talk about cutting the defence budget, the only cuts were marginal. A substantive

the civilian aid loan was changed into a grant; once the entire amount of military aid was made a grant; once the increase in the size of the total aid was linked to need; once some of the aid was allowed to be spent in Israel currency on the Lavi warplane project; once the aid sum was raised without any restriction on its use.

The following table shows the gross amounts of U.S. aid, before deductions for repayment of outstanding loans, according to the U.S. fiscal year (beginning in October). The amount for 1979 includes \$800 million provided for in the Camp David agreement; the years 1985-86 include "special emergency aid."

	1977	1,010
	1978	1,050
	1979	1,854
	1980	1,054
	1981	1,292
	1982	1,369
	1983	1,548
	1984	1,773
	1985	3,300
	1986	3,755

(in millions of \$)

Former prime minister Menachem Begin's ego was responsible for the fact that, out of \$3.2b. in U.S. aid for the redeployment of the Israel Defence Forces in the Negev, only \$800m. were received as a grant and the remainder as loans; which added sharply to Israel's foreign debt burden and

spurred the resulting economic crisis. But after realizing its mistake, Israel reached an understanding with the U.S. whereby the civilian aid would not total less than the amount of interest payments Israel must return. For this reason, the American aid package has grown in recent years; but Israel's annual interest payments of over \$1b. mean that not much is left over.

IT SHOULD also be recalled that some of the loans Israel has undertaken carry high interest, double the interest charged today. For this reason, Israel is seeking to reduce its annual interest payments by half a billion dollars, beginning from the 1987 U.S. fiscal year.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres does not want to repeat Begin's mistakes. His nationalist ego is less important to him. Thus he was not embarrassed in Washington this week to raise the idea of a "Marshall Plan for the Middle East" or to propose that Israel repay a portion of its debts in shekels. While the Americans may have rejected his proposals for the present, and agreed to release only another \$375m. in emergency aid, they got the message.

Judging by past experience, the U.S. and Israel will find a way to ensure the continuation of increased aid for Israel, even at a time when the U.S. administration is seeking to reduce its foreign aid.

READERS' LETTERS

SECULAR JUDAISM

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - Yosef Goell's article of March 19 ("The forces of darkness") once again succinctly focuses on some of the major problems between the Orthodox and secular communities. The reaction to the summer time issue is indeed only one example of the "sheep-like secular population that will not fight for its rights." However, one does feel rather helpless when there is constant evidence of the majority being "sold down the river" time and time again by the government for expedient political ends.

Orthodox intolerance and coercion are sending some secular Jews away from Judaism completely, in conscious or unconscious protest. However, there are many secular individuals who are "fighting for their rights" by maintaining their own brand of Judaism and even forming or joining an organization that legitimizes and supports such an action.

The Israel Association for Secular Humanistic Judaism, which is not only a growing reality but also boasts an international institute and a biannual journal, is an attempt to reinterpret the traditions of the Jewish people within the framework of a contemporary humanistic Jewish culture. It seeks to update Judaism and make it palatable for the many

who reject Orthodox rigidity. By maintaining our individual perception of our Judaism and thereby not allowing the Orthodox community to bully the secular community into either subservience or oblivion, we can exercise a bit of muscle-flexing in the right direction.

SANDRA ZIAS
Jerusalem

WEATHER FORECASTING

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - I deeply deplore Theodore Levine's letter of March 16 about weather forecasting.

My wife read that "our weather forecasting service has become the biggest single cause of colds, flu, pneumonia, etc." And now, whenever I go out and whatever the official forecast, she makes me wear woolen pullover, blazer, heavy overcoat, muffler, cap with ear-flaps and gloves, just to be on the safe side.

Incidentally, I find Kol Yisrael's forecasts fairly accurate.

RAYMOND ASSAYAS
Netanya.

THE ECONOMY

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - The slogan "Israel's economic recovery," so favoured in official pronouncements, is slowly becoming synonymous with individual disaster in this country, where spreading unemployment has affected the working man either by depriving him of his livelihood and dignity, or by undermining his peace of mind as the proverbial sword of Damocles suspended over his head.

Mr. Moda'i would do well to remember the donkey of the fable whose owner almost succeeded in training it to exist without food but for the bear's premature, inconvenient and inconsiderate death which intervened in the process.

RENE MODIANO
Rishon LeZion.

RABBIS AND PUNCTUALITY

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - Having never been late to a religious ceremony in my 27 years in the rabbinate, I resent the categorization of rabbis as chronically late in the article of March 21 concerning an Ethiopian marriage. I would be interested in knowing how Haim Shapiro was able to state with such

authority that "the rabbi was late as rabbis tend to be." Rabbi WERNER DEUTSCH Jerusalem (New York). Rabin Shapiro comments: Unfortunately, Rabbi Deutsch's Israeli colleagues do not have the same reputation for punctuality that he evidently merits.

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POSTSCRIPTS

P.S. ISRAELIS are not the only ones to complain about slow mail delivery. *British Airways News*, the airline's in-house newspaper, reports that their internal post office comes in for many unfair cracks. One recent crack topped them all.

It was a letter which recently reached one official through BA's internal mail. In meticulous handwriting the writer appealed for 300,000 volunteers to form new armies. The letter was signed Lord Kitchener - and dated May 16, 1915.

P.S. OFFICIALS say California taxpayers last year paid a record \$10 million for the collection of a wild boar's head, discarded dentures and other trash from California's roadsides.

Among the other odd items picked up along highways: a life-sized paper mache rhinoceros, packages of illegal drugs, a U.S. Navy depth charge, sides of beef, a human finger and an "endless variety of rubber versions of human organs," an official said.

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The Australian Government is in the process of revising its citizenship policy and legislation. For advice on how these changes will affect the status of Australians residing in Israel, interested persons should, in the first instance, contact the Australian Embassy in Tel Aviv, Tel. (03) 243152.

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